

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON
TERRORISM

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation which will establish a national commission on terrorism. This will be a bipartisan, national panel of experts with diverse skills and outlooks—highly respected people from across the political spectrum. The commission would be accountable to the President, to Congress, and to the American people.

The purpose of the commission would be to take a close look at the problem of terrorism, including Middle Eastern-related terrorism, to study its origins and develop effective countermeasures and make recommendations to reshape our traditional policy on combating terrorism. A number of persons could be considered as possible commissioners, and I've listed a few suggestions for starters on the enclosed list.

The proposed bipartisan national commission will consist of 15 distinguished members, five each appointed by the President, and by the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate in consultation with the Minority Leaders of the House and Senate. I believe that President George H.W. Bush, who is not only a former president and vice president, but also a former director of the CIA, would be an ideal chairman for the commission. The commissioners will include three Members of Congress and three Senators. The commission will have a duration of six months and will be given every means to deal quickly with this national problem, including access to classified information, travel funds to engage in on-the-spot investigations, and accompanying congressional hearings.

A few weeks ago, 267 people lost their lives and more than 5,000 people were injured in the bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa. Twelve of those who died were Americans.

On August 20, President Clinton announced that the U.S. had determined a multimillionaire militant and terrorist kingpin, Osama Bin Ladin, was responsible for the attack. American forces bombed secret compounds and facilities linked to Bin Ladin in Afghanistan and Sudan that same day. While this response was proper and necessary, I believe we need to take another look at our nation's overall policy on terrorism. Bin Ladin is certainly not our only worry. Unfortunately, there are other groups are also known to be active in the area of terrorism.

As the world's leader, America and its people are natural terrorist targets. Our military, industrial and commercial presence around the globe attracts frustration from many terrorist groups.

But the problem is not limited to America alone. In Israel, Algeria, Egypt, and many other countries, terrorism has become an awful fact of life. A recent study in the Journal of Counterterrorism and Security International of all fatalities in international terrorist incidents in 1993–96 showed that three-quarters of the deaths from those attacks could be laid at the feet of the militant, fundamentalist groups.

In my travels to many of these countries, I have seen firsthand the destruction that terrorism has inflicted on many innocent people. I visited Sudan on three different occasions, and saw the great instability that terrorist elements bring to a country when they are allowed to flourish. Over the July 1998 congressional recess, I visited Algeria, where 70,000 people have been killed by terrorists. I saw the fear and the sorrow that grips the people there as they have lost countless friends and loved ones in the violence in that nation. When I visited Lebanon after the horrible bombing in Beirut in 1983, I saw the Marine barracks that had been destroyed. On October 23, 1983, massive vehicle bombs devastated the headquarters of the U.S. Marine contingent, killing 241 U.S. Marines.

After my recent trip to Algeria and with this latest attack on the embassies in East Africa, I am convinced that it is time to reevaluate American counterterrorism strategy. I say this not to be critical of what has already been done or of current efforts. Much is being accomplished by the intelligence community in this regard. They are doing a great job and are to be complimented. Still, terrorism is growing.

Until now, we have been fortunate not to experience the full brunt of many terrorist attacks on our home soil. According to a recent article in the Economist, investigators of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing concluded that those plotting the incident intended to cause one tower to topple onto the other and to kill up to 250,000 people. Fortunately, the attack was not as successful as planned.

Some regions of the world are much more dangerous than others. Since 1983, more Americans have been killed by attacks perpetrated by terrorists either based in or connected to the Middle East than any other region of the world. In fact, the largest number of American lives lost to politically motivated violence since the end of the Vietnam War has been connected to Middle Eastern terrorism.

A number of incidents have not yet been fully resolved. In some cases, the perpetrators remain unknown. In other cases, the perpetrators are known but have not yet been held accountable for their actions, or have taken refuge in other countries.

Outstanding incidents are many. One of the most deadly years for terrorist violence was 1983, with bombing of the Beirut embassy in April and the Marine barracks in October. Five

years later, Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed in flight over Scotland by a bomb, killing 259 persons on board, including 189 Americans, and 11 others on the ground. Experts say that although the culprits have been pinpointed, they are currently hiding in Libya and that nation is refusing to hand them over to authorities.

More recently came the car bomb explosion in the parking lot of the Office of Program Manager/Saudi Arabian National Guard in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in November 1995, which killed seven people and wounded 42 others. Seven months later in that country, a fuel truck carrying a bomb exploded outside the U.S. military's Khobar Towers housing facility in Dhahran, killing 19 U.S. military personnel and wounding 515 persons, including 240 U.S. personnel.

Unidentified gunmen shot to death four U.S. auditors from Union Texas Petroleum and their Pakistani driver in Karachi, Pakistan, in November 1997. Now we are facing the latest terrorist incident of the bombing of two American embassies in East Africa. But over these last 15 years, there have been many other terrorist attacks and American blood has been shed both at home and abroad.

U.S. government agencies and private organizations have done valuable work to unearth the perpetrators of these crimes. Unfortunately, the potential for both an increased number of terrorist acts and for acts that can result in massive numbers of casualties is great and is growing.

America, and the world, must be prepared for new and more deadly kinds of terrorism—nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons of mass destruction. The danger is growing as weapons of mass destruction become more accessible.

The world watched in horror in March 1995, when the news came that members of a small religious sect had set off a nerve gas called sarin in the Tokyo subway. The incident killed 12 people and injured several thousand, but it was actually, like the World Trade Center, a botched job. When they investigated later, police found enough sarin in the sect's possession to kill millions of people.

It is imperative that the United States assess the most effective ways of combating terrorism and that policymakers have the full spectrum of options at their disposal. This is what the National Commission on Terrorism will do. And it must do so quickly. The American people deserve to be fully informed on this issue in the face of a powerful and vicious adversary.

ADDENDUM

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORISM

Robert Abrams, former attorney general, New York State; Fouad Ajami, professor at the School of Advanced International Studies Johns Hopkins University; Ed Badaloto, chairman of the International Association of Counterterrorism Professionals; Lawrence

Barcella, former federal prosecutor; Paul Bremer, former head of counter-terrorism, Department of State; John Deutch, former director of the CIA; David Gavigan, assistant adjutant general, Massachusetts Army National Guard; Robin Higgins, Marine colonel; David Kay, Director of SAIC's Center of Counterterrorism; and Jeane Kirkpatrick, former ambassador to the United Nations.

Andrew McCarthy, former chief prosecutor, World Trade Center bombing; Riad Nacheef, head of the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects; Raphael Perl, Congressional Research Service; Richard Perle, former assistant secretary of defense; Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum; Steven Pomerantz, former assistant director of the FBI for counter-terrorism; George Shultz, former secretary of state; Glenn Schweizer, National Science Foundation; William Webster, former director of the FBI and CIA; Phil Wilcox, former coordinator for counterterrorism at the State Department; and Jim Woosley, former director of the CIA.

(Note: This addendum is provided to illustrate the types of people who could serve on the commission and is by no means all-inclusive. There are many more individuals who are fully qualified to be on this commission.)

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established a national commission on terrorism to review counter-terrorism policies regarding the prevention and punishment of international acts of terrorism directed at the United States. The commission shall be known as "The National Commission on Terrorism".

(b) **COMPOSITION.**—The commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

(1) Five members shall be appointed by the President from among officers or employees of the executive branch, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than 3 members selected by the President shall be members of the same political party.

(2) Five members shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate, from among members of the Senate, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than 3 of the members selected by the Majority Leader shall be members of the same political party and 3 members shall be members of the Senate.

(3) Five members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, from among members of the House of Representatives, private citizens of the United States, or both. Not more than 3 of the members selected by the Speaker shall be members of the same political party and 3 members shall be members of the House of Representatives.

(4) The appointments of the members of the commission should be made no later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The members should have a knowledge and expertise in matters to be studied by the commission.

(d) **CHAIRMAN.**—The chairman of the commission shall be elected by the members of the commission.

SEC. 2. DUTIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The commission shall consider issues relating to international terrorism directed at the United States as follows:

(1) Review the laws, regulations, policies, directives, and practices relating to counterterrorism in the prevention and punishment of international terrorism directed towards the United States.

(2) Assess the extent to which laws, regulations, policies, directives, and practices relating to counterterrorism have been effective in preventing or punishing international terrorism directed towards the United States. At a minimum, the assessment should include a review of the following:

(A) Evidence that terrorist organizations have established an infrastructure in the western hemisphere for the support and conduct of terrorist activities.

(B) Executive branch efforts to coordinate counterterrorism activities among Federal, State, and local agencies and with other nations to determine the effectiveness of such coordination efforts.

(C) Executive branch efforts to prevent the use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons by terrorists.

(3) Recommend changes to counterterrorism policy in preventing and punishing international terrorism directed toward the United States.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Commission first meets, the Commission shall submit to the President and the Congress a final report of the findings and conclusions of the commission, together with any recommendations.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

(a) **MEETINGS.**—

(1) The commission shall hold its first meeting on a date designated by the Speaker of the House which is not later than 30 days after the date on which all members have been appointed.

(2) After the first meeting, the commission shall meet upon the call of the chairman.

(3) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(b) **AUTHORITY OF INDIVIDUALS TO ACT FOR COMMISSION.**—Any member or agent of the commission may, if authorized by the commission, take any action which the commission is authorized to take under this Act.

(c) **POWERS.**—

(1) The commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the commission considers advisable to carry out its duties.

(2) The commission may secure directly from any agency of the Federal Government such information as the commission considers necessary to carry out its duties. Upon the request of the chairman of the commission, the head of a department or agency shall furnish the requested information expeditiously to the commission.

(3) The commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

(d) **PAY AND EXPENSES OF COMMISSION MEMBERS.**—

(1) Each member of the commission who is not an employee of the government shall be paid at a rate equal for the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in performing the duties of the commission.

(2) Members and personnel for the commission may travel on aircraft, vehicles, or

other conveyances of the Armed Forces of the United States when travel is necessary in the performance of a duty of the commission except when the cost of commercial transportation is less expensive.

(3) The members of the commission may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the commission.

(4)(A) A member of the commission who is an annuitant otherwise covered by section 8344 of 4668 of title 5, United States Code, by reason of membership on the commission shall not be subject to the provisions of such section with respect to membership on the commission.

(B) A member of the commission who is a member or former member of a uniformed service shall not be subject to the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of section 5532 of such title with respect to membership on the commission.

(e) **STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—

(1) The chairman of the commission may, without regard to civil service laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an executive director and up to 3 additional staff members as necessary to enable the commission to perform its duties. The chairman of the commission may fix the compensation of the executive director and other personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51, and subchapter III of chapter 53, of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay may not exceed the maximum rate of pay for GS-15 under the General Schedule.

(2) Upon the request of the chairman of the commission, the head of any department or agency of the Federal Government may detail, without reimbursement, any personnel of the department or agency to the commission to assist in carrying out its duties. The detail of an employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

SEC. 4. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

The commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the commission submits a final report.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
WILLIAM F. "FRANK" MOORE

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General William F. "Frank" Moore, United States Air Force, who recently completed a three year assignment as the Director of Special Programs in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology. The Office of Special Programs deals with the most sensitive and highly classified programs within the Department of Defense (DOD). Throughout his tenure, General Moore has provided steady leadership and has served as a faithful guardian of the

Department of Defense's most sensitive programs.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Congress' growing concern with the Department of Defense's management of classified programs resulted in legislation that directed DOD to implement a new structure for overseeing these programs within the Department and an improved process for coordinating with appropriate Congressional committees of oversight. As the Director of the Office of Special Programs, General Moore has worked diligently to ensure an effective working relationship with the House National Security Committee and with the Congress. On behalf of the entire National Security Committee, I would like to thank General Moore for his service and wish him the best in his new and important assignment as Deputy Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency—an agency that will become the Department of Defense's focal point for addressing the many serious threats associated with weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, General Moore has served the nation and the Air Force admirably for over 31 years. Throughout his career, the nation has asked a lot of General Moore and his family—his wife, Carol, and their two daughters, Rachel and Laurel. I want to congratulate General Moore on his new assignment, thank him for the job he has done during the past three years as Director of Special Programs, and wish him, and his family, health, happiness and prosperity in the future.

TRIBUTE TO COL. LAWRENCE W. STYS, WISCONSIN WING COMMANDER OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a skilled pilot and dedicated public servant, Col. Larry Stys, Wisconsin Wing Commander of the Civil Air Patrol. After 33 years with the CAP, Col. Stys will step down as the Wisconsin Wing Commander October 17.

His lasting legacy is a record unparalleled in the history of the Civil Air Patrol in Wisconsin. He achieved this by hiring the best individuals for duty assignments and inspiring them to the highest principles. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the philosophy of Col. Stys can best be expressed in his own words written to all Wisconsin Unit Commanders:

"I realized that the most important thing in one's life was principles. If one's life was ordered to and grounded in a set of principles, the arrangement of things will fall into line automatically. Principles are more than character traits. Traits can sometimes be worn without truly believing in them. This fundamental basis of character is called integrity. People can look at you and believe you. You can persuade without recourse to cajole."

This philosophy enjoyed obvious success, Mr. Speaker. In 1995, Wisconsin Wing was named best in the region in Search and Rescue proficiency.

And in 1997 during the Air Force Quality Inspection, Wisconsin Wing earned the distinc-

tion as best in the nation, excelling in all categories, including an unprecedented 13 benchmarks, which other wings will be rated against. Despite these laudable achievements, Col. Stys repeatedly deflected praise from himself to his staff.

Mr. Speaker, volunteer service is held in such high regard because of the dedication and professionalism of men like Col. Stys. As he leaves his command, we commend his invaluable service, we celebrate his contributions to air safety, and we salute his high regard for standards and principles.

TRIBUTE TO STATE SENATOR RALPH DILLS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the retirement of the senior member of the California State Senate, Sen. Ralph Dills. Sen. Dills will leave office at the end of the year, and in August completed his last session in a career that began 60 years ago.

I had the pleasure to know Sen. Dills when I worked as an intern and a staff person in the state Senate in the 1960s and 1970s. A colleague of my father, who was himself a senator then, Sen. Dills was even in those days an institution in Sacramento, and he certainly remains one today.

We all honor his devotion to public service and to the people of the state of California. I would like to submit an editorial from the Sacramento Bee that pays tribute to this distinguished legislator and Californian, and I know all members of this Congress join me in honoring his career.

[From the Sacramento Bee, Sept. 2, 1998]

RALPH DILLS BOWS OUT: SENATOR WAS THE STATE'S LONGEST-SERVING LAWMAKER

Franklin Roosevelt was serving his second term as president when Ralph Dills was first elected to the California Legislature in 1938. President Clinton wasn't yet born, nor were most lawmakers with whom Dills now serves.

Dills arrived in Sacramento from Long Beach, a liberal New Deal Democrat and staunch friend of labor, and he departs 60 years later much the same way. In 1949, he left the Assembly to accept a judgeship, but 17 years later he was elected to the Senate, where he has been ever since, often presiding over sessions, a chore he relished.

One of Dills' proudest achievements was authoring the law that created Long Beach State University; another was the 1977 measure that gave collective bargaining rights to state workers. In speeches lauding him last week, fellow lawmakers remembered that Dills was among a small minority of legislators who opposed the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

As a senator, Dills presided over the influential Governmental Organization Committee. The panel handles liquor, horse racing and gambling legislation and has traditionally been a channel for large campaign contributions that Dills used to help keep himself and his fellow Democrats in power.

In his later years, Dills was known less for his legislative prowess than for his colorful

attire, purple-tinted hair and saxophone playing. Reapportionment had pushed his district westward, from a gritty inland neighborhood to a more upscale coastal area, forcing him to acquire an environmental sensitivity he'd never shown before. He was 88, ailing and in a wheelchair when he cast his last votes in the Legislature late Monday. However he is ultimately rated, term limits ensure that Ralph Dills' durable presence in Sacramento is unlikely to be repeated.

WHY PATIENT COST-SHARING SAVES LITTLE: THE HEALTH LESSONS FROM EUROPE

HON. PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, various Members of Congress frequently say that one of the ways to save Medicare is to require the patient to pay a higher share of the cost—thus making the patient a more careful consumer and reducing the demand for care.

Following is a portion of a 1997 study published by the World Health Organization entitled, "European Health Care Reform," which shows why such an approach will save little, but of course will greatly increase the burden on the poorest and sickest in our society. This portion of the study is also interesting in that it shows that in most foreign countries, patients have much more time with their doctor and have much longer hospital length of stays than Americans—yet those foreign societies spend about 30 to 40% less than we do on health care.

Before Americans push more of the burden of Medicare onto the poor and sick, we should look to the lessons from abroad.

THE EFFECTS OF COST SHARING TOTAL HEALTH EXPENDITURE

Evidence suggests that cost sharing reduces utilization but does not contain costs. Overall costs are not contained because cost sharing is a set of demand-side policies, and costs are primarily driven by supply-side factors. Intercountry comparisons indicate that the United States has lower rates of contact with physicians and beddays per head of population than many other countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom, but costs in the United States are much higher relative to GDP than in these other countries. This strongly suggests that it is the intensity of care provided per contact in the United States that is responsible for this apparent paradox (198). The United States has the highest out-of-pocket expenses, mostly to meet cost-sharing obligations; it also has the highest overall costs. Other countries have lower cost-sharing and higher utilization rates, but lower costs. This does not mean that cost sharing causes higher costs; it means that measures other than cost sharing (supply-side measures such as budgetary controls) are much more effective mechanisms for cost-containment.

The Rand Study (199,200) suggests that cost sharing is associated with a decrease in total health spending, but the design of the experiment does not really permit strong conclusions to be drawn about the consequences for total expenditure of the broad implementation of cost sharing within a retrospective

reimbursement system. The reason is that providers may compensate for a reduction in consumer-initiated demand by inducing increases in service volume or intensity. Table 9, which shows intercountry data (1998) on contacts with physicians, hospital days and health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, suggests that consumer-initiated demand is not the major factor driving health care costs. Rather, it appears to be the intensity of services provided. Since intensity is largely provider initiated, there is little scope for cost sharing to make much of an impact on the overall level of spending. . . .

TABLE 9. HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION AND EXPENDITURE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, AROUND 1990

Country	Contacts with physicians per head	Bed-days per head	Expenditure as a percentage of GDP
Canada	6.9	1.5	9.5
France	7.2	1.5	8.8
Germany	11.5	2.3	8.3
Japan	12.9	—	6.7
United Kingdom	5.7	0.9	6.2
United States	5.5	0.9	12.2

EQUITY IN FINANCING

Has cost sharing led to a relatively greater burden of health care financing falling on lower-income households? Based on data from the 1980s, Switzerland and the United States were found to have the most regressive health financing systems out of ten OECD countries studied (201). This finding was attributed to their heavy reliance on both private health insurance and private out-of-pocket payments. The latter were found to be very regressive in these two countries because, in most instances, cost-sharing obligations apply irrespective of the patient's income.

The equity consequences of cost sharing in France are unclear, because there is no direct relationship between income and complementary insurance coverage. Employees in small firms and young people, as well as the unemployed, are less likely to have complementary insurance. This suggests that voluntary complementary insurance that cover the cost-sharing obligations of a national insurance system can lead to a disproportionate financial burden (and probably inequitable access as well) for those unable to purchase that coverage.

Evidence from Kyrgyzstan suggests that the mix of formal and informal charges to users of health services increased inequities in financing. The out-of-pocket costs of a single episode of illness could impose a substantial financial burden on many households. In 20% of cases, the total costs of an episode for an individual exceeded the monthly income of his or her entire household. Almost 50% of inpatients reported severe difficulties in finding the money to pay for their stay, and one third of them borrowed money to pay for their hospital charges. Capital items were often sold (farm animals in rural areas, consumer goods in urban areas) to raise the necessary money. Overall, there is evidence that the incidence of out-of-pocket payments for health is inequitable, i.e. it creates more of a burden for poorer households and individuals (197).

CONCLUSION

Cost sharing does not provide a very powerful policy tool, either for improving efficiency or for containing health sector costs. Because of the importance of providers in influencing the main drivers of health sector costs, policies that address the supply side of the market are likely to be much more pow-

erful than those that act solely on the demand side. Cost sharing will reduce consumer initiated utilization, but such reductions will not be effective for cost-containment. This is because the main influence on health care costs is service intensity, which is provider driven.

The appropriateness and likely effects of cost sharing depend on the services to which it is applied, and on the broader context of the provider payment system. The use of cost sharing as a tool to limit demand is relevant only when applied to first-contact services. For (provider-initiated) referral services, cost sharing has little impact on utilization and is thus of little relevance in terms of efficiency. In systems in which providers are reimbursed retrospectively, reductions in consumer-initiated utilization caused by cost sharing will encourage providers to increase the volume of services per patient contact (i.e. service intensity) in order to maintain their incomes. In such systems, therefore, cost sharing does little to restrain cost growth because the available evidence suggests that providers can—and do—respond to a drop in consumer-initiated utilization by stimulating an increase in the use of diagnostic and therapeutical services. In systems where providers are prepaid, there are no obvious incentives for this response, but the effects of cost sharing are still likely to be marginal because supply-side incentives are enough to restrain growth in expenditure.

Without compensatory administrative procedures, cost sharing causes inequity in the financing and receipt of health services. Unless cost sharing is related to income, co-payments and co-insurance will impose a greater burden on the budgets of low-income households. Without specific measures to exempt low-income groups from out-of-pocket charges, access to care will depend on income levels. Evidence consistently shows that direct charges deter poorer people from using services to a greater degree than they deter the better-off. These limitations on access may result in adverse health effects for poorer and sicker groups of the population. To protect equity, therefore, measures are needed to compensate for the consequences of cost sharing on poorer members of society.

As a means of mobilizing revenue for the health services, direct charges to patients are not likely to generate substantial amounts without causing adverse consequences in terms of equity.

LITERACY IN AMERICA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 5, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

LITERACY IN AMERICA

In the course of a recent conversation I had with an older Hoosier woman, she acknowledged to me, with tears in her eyes, that she could not read. She told me she was unable to read the local newspaper, compute the numbers in the supermarket, write to her children, or read the Bible. I could scarcely imagine how a person could function in today's world without being literate.

Yet many people do. More than one out of every five Americans cannot read or do simple math. That is a shocking figure with huge ramifications for the quality of life for many of our fellow citizens and for the country's economic and political well-being.

Defining literacy: In years past, literacy was simply defined as a person's ability to read and use printed materials at a very basic level. But the increasing complexity and change in today's society, along with the skills demanded of individuals, has led to a more comprehensive definition.

Today, the definition of literacy most widely used in the U.S. actually is not a single definition, but involves five different levels of proficiency. The lowest level of literacy, or Level 1, is marked by a difficulty in locating an intersection on a map, completing background information on a Social Security card application, or other rudimentary tasks. The highest level, or Level 5, involves college-level reading and writing skills.

Literacy and employment: Over time, even as definitions and measures of literacy have changed, each was largely based on what is needed for gainful employment. As the workplace changes, what it means to be literate also changes. Today's workplace requires higher levels of critical reading, problem solving, and computer skills to ensure success. Our economy has become increasingly high-tech and demands higher literacy and technical skills for jobs like data processing, communications, and finance. A two-tiered workforce has evolved, one with the literacy skills needed for the old economy, and a second with advanced skills for the high-tech workplace. Such a two-tiered economy would leave a significant portion of workers behind, and present formidable challenges to the nation.

Literacy levels have real implications on salary levels. On average those in the highest level are paid over \$400 more per week than those in Level 1.

Trends in literacy: Since at least the 1980s, the literacy levels of Americans have continued to slump. Ten years ago one out of every five American adults age 16 and over could not read and write at the most basic levels. Today, the best estimate is that 23%, or 44 million adults, are at Level 1 literacy. In Indiana, an estimated 16% of adults are at Level 1, with the percentage slightly lower—about 14%—in the 21 counties of the Ninth District.

Low literacy levels contribute to many other problems. Of adults in the Level 1 category, 43% live in poverty. Some 75% of those on food stamps placed in the lowest two levels of literacy skills. People at Level 1 averaged 19 weeks of work per year compared to 44 weeks for Level 5. Also, seven out of ten people in correctional facilities performed in the lowest two levels.

Literacy programs: Help is available today for those with literacy needs, but often it is not received because many persons with low literacy levels feel they either do not have a problem or do not admit to such a problem. One successful way of breaking the cycle of poor literacy skills has been through local family literacy programs, which include four elements: adult education and employment skills, early childhood education, parent support groups, and opportunities for educational parent-child interaction. Studies show that these family programs enable children to read much better. These programs also are helpful for the whole family as 23% of families on public assistance become self-sufficient after successfully completing the

program. These family programs increase motivation and self-esteem in adults, give people a chance to discuss and share concerns with their peers, and allow parents and children to develop skills in a positive and structured environment. Other literacy and education programs in workplaces and libraries, and for non-English speakers have been effective as well. Also, particularly effective are programs for the incarcerated. Re-arrest rates for prisoners are significantly lower if they participate in an education program while in prison. Unfortunately, the participation rate for such programs is low.

Congressional involvement: Although the majority of literacy initiatives are state and local, the federal government plays an important supporting role. Last year, Congress provided \$361 million for federal adult education and literacy programs. Most of these funds provide grants to states, support prison literacy programs, and underwrite literacy study and research initiatives. Last year, Indiana received over \$7 million in federal funding for literacy programs.

Conclusion: Currently much good work is being done to address literacy in America, but the challenges are formidable. The effort to improve the literacy of Americans should not be limited to formal government programs. In the home, parents must promote literacy skills for their children at an early age. In the schools, educators must promote the highest reading skills from students. In the workplace, employers should provide useful opportunities for workers to continually improve their basic skills.

Clearly, too many Americans are undereducated for our times. Education for all people must be a top priority in our nation. The more literate a person is the less likely he or she will depend on welfare or be in prison, and the more likely he or she will vote and have a decent income. Access to basic education is—or at least should be—a basic human right. Opportunities for literacy education should be available to all Americans to ensure not only improvement in our economy, society, and families, but an overall better quality of life. A literate nation means a better America.

A TRIBUTE TO GILBERTO WONG, NICARAGUAN PATRIOT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gilberto Wong, a leader in the Nicaraguan exile community in south Florida who returned to Nicaragua to help his native country develop economically and consolidate its hard-fought democracy.

Educated in both Nicaragua and the United States, Mr. Wong earned degrees from the Instituto Pedagógico de Managua and Saint Edward's University in Austin, TX. Once he arrived to exile in Florida in 1979, Mr. Wong made a name for himself and quickly rose in the ranks of the financial community, becoming vice-president of a prestigious financial institution as well as president of the Nicaraguan American Bankers and Businessmen Association. The Wong family has deep roots in the south Florida community, and Gilberto's brother, Juan, is co-owner of Los Ranchos, an

extremely popular chain of Nicaraguan steak houses in Miami-Dade County.

In the early 1990s, Mr. Gilberto Wong returned to his homeland to become general manager of the newly-founded Banco de la Exportación, headquartered in Managua. This bank opened in 1992, specializing in trade finance services, including letters of credit and collections. That same year, Mr. Wong was awarded the great honor of being named Nicaraguan-American banker of the year.

Based on his extensive experience in both the financial and trade arenas, in 1997 Mr. Wong was appointed executive secretary of the state-owned Corporation of Free Trade Zones of Nicaragua. These export-processing zones are among the major employers in Nicaragua, and they provide over 12,000 jobs, with close to three-fourths of the positions being filled by women.

Now that Mr. Wong's term has expired as general manager of the Corporation of Free Trade Zones, he has been named director of communications for Nicaragua's President, His Excellency the Honorable Arnoldo Alemán. Mr. Wong is active in numerous associations, including the China-Nicaraguan Association, which he serves as president, the American Chamber of Commerce of Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan-American College and the Association of Friends of the National Police.

I have been honored to know the Wong family for almost twenty years and my friendship with Gilberto runs very deep, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great sense of privilege that I rise today to honor this great patriot, Gilberto Wong, and to congratulate him for the numerous and extraordinary accomplishments that he has already achieved despite his youth.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO R. MUSTO, JR.

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of East Boston's most beloved and dedicated public servants. Angelo R. Musto, Jr., who died on July 4, 1998, left an inspiring legacy of bettering the lives of all he knew throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In more than eight decades on earth, there was no arena of community life neglected by Angelo Musto. Politics, social services, business development, youth programs—wherever there was a need, Angelo filled it. In his professional career, Angelo demonstrated the same spirit of selfless service, particularly in steering troubled youngsters towards a brighter future.

He began his career in the depths of the Great Depression with the National Youth Administration. He later became a counselor with the East Boston Camps and joined the Goodwill House in Jeffries Point, eventually rising to executive director in charge of a wide array of social, educational, and recreational services.

In recognition of his expertise, the late Governor John A. Volpe made Angelo a special assistant in the Boston Municipal Court in

1957 and later appointed him to the Massachusetts Advisory Committee on Corrections to help the criminal justice system mend broken lives more effectively. He was later appointed to the Suffolk County Courthouse Commission. In 1965, Angelo was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Probations and 13 years later rose to become First Deputy Commissioner.

Angelo actively worked with the East Boston Chamber of Commerce for over 40 years and received its Man of the Year Award in 1973. He also served on the boards of the United Fund, the Kiwanis, the Mental Health Area Board, the East Boston Savings Bank and the East Boston Social Centers. Among his many accomplishments, perhaps the most notable was the creation of the Goodwill House Day Program in Jeffries Point, which to this day serves as a national model for urban day camps.

Throughout his years of service, Angelo remained firmly committed to improving the lives of our youth. His work as the general director of the East Boston Camps and as a member of the East Boston Athletic Board helped give city kids a reprieve from the streets and taught them the values he embraced—discipline, compassion and strength of body and mind. By the time I launched my first campaign for Congress in 1986, Angelo Musto had already cultivated the talents of three generations of East Boston's youth and drew on those far-reaching ties to create a formidable political presence in East Boston.

During that first campaign, he drew extensively on his detailed knowledge of the history of the community, reaching back to the arrival of the Kennedys in East Boston. Angelo knew the history, but most importantly he knew the people and the issues they cared about—quality health care, good schools, decent housing, access to college, and protection from outside forces that have long sought to sacrifice East Boston's quality of life to the airline industry.

The eager volunteers that fanned out across East Boston in 1986 quickly learned the rules of politics as taught by Angelo. I recall one incident in which one of the higher-profile members of my campaign team upbraided a volunteer in our East Boston headquarters. Angelo stepped in, and with the persuasive skill he had acquired through years of politicking, calmed the rising tension, gently rebuked the bigwig and at the same time made it clear that the Kennedy team in East Boston would never be a house divided.

Throughout the years that followed, Angelo Musto remained an invaluable member of my Congressional team. As my East Boston District Representative and 8th District Coordinator for Seniors from 1987 until his retirement in 1992, he served as a vital link to the community—attending meetings, fielding constituent calls, and working to fund worthy projects. His dedication to the comfort of East Boston's senior citizens resulted in such accomplishments as securing federal support to renovate the Don Orione Nursing Home.

With Angelo's passing, my heart goes out to his daughter Faith, his brothers Louis and Vincent, his sisters Lucille, Emma, and Theresa, and to his grandchildren George and Lisa.

The truth is, we were all a part of Angelo Musto's extended family, which reached

across lines of age and party and profession to include the great sweep of those whose lives he touched and served.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by a high school student from my home state of Vermont, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of this young person will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY ABIGAIL NESSEN REGARDING GUN CONTROL

Ms. NESSEN. I believe that our forefathers had the right idea. Their wish was to create a safe and free nation for all of us to live in, and they wrote this to prove it: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

These are beautiful words. But more than beautiful, they can be used and enforced to create a more perfect union. But our country is at a time in its history when the words "domestic tranquility" and "general welfare" seem to signify things of the past.

I am here today to talk to you about guns. The widespread availability of these weapons is frightening and wrong. Thousand are killed every year in our country by guns bought legally, guns made not to hunt animals but to hunt humans. Many have killed or have been killed by the time they reach my age, if they ever do.

I am a strict constructionist when it comes to the preamble and the Second Amendment, meaning I believe that our forefathers wrote just what they meant. They meant for the Constitution to create domestic tranquility and general welfare and, especially, common defense. I believe—I know—that the guns that are available today do none of these things. I believe and I know that our forefathers would agree, because I refuse to think that the intentions of the ones who wrote the Constitution was to put lethal weapons in the hands of every person who wanted one. That is not "a well regulated militia." No, their intention was to ensure the safety and freedom of us, their posterity.

I proposed that we follow the words of the preamble and of our constitution. I proposed that we take a step to make our nation safe again, for me and for the children I want to have some day. I propose we remove the guns from our streets, our homes and our hands.

Congressman SANDERS. Thank you very much.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS AND CONVERSIONS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, attached are two important articles that spotlight a significant problem with the rampant mergers, acquisitions, and conversions going on throughout our health care system today.

Recently, the two Blue Cross plans in Washington and Maryland combined into one plan. There was, at the time, and continues to be, great concern within the consumer community—lead by A.G. Newmyer of the Fair Care Foundation—with this merger. He makes a strong case that the eventual goal of this merger was not to provide better quality health care to the plans' members—as both health plans proclaim. Instead, it was to line the pockets of health plan executives and pave the way to convert the bigger, stronger plan into a for-profit entity. Under both of these scenarios the community loses.

The attached articles outline Mr. Newmyer's perspective on this merger quite well and I encourage everyone to read them.

[From the Daily Record, Aug. 10, 1998]

DID BLUES EXECS PAD THEIR POCKETS?

(By Bob Keaveney)

On May 23, 1997 at 12:30 p.m., over lunch at a Washington-area restaurant, A.G. Newmyer III says his friend, at the time a director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of the National Capital Area, made a shocking admission.

Newmyer says the director, whom he will not name, told him that Larry Glasscock, then-president of the D.C. Blues, would leave the company after its combination with Maryland's Blue Cross plan was complete.

Newmyer said he was complaining to his friend about the way the D.C. Blues treats its members generally, and about Glasscock specifically, when the director "smiled and said, 'After the merger, he'll be gone.'"

Last March, two months after the deal was complete, Glasscock did leave for a job in Indianapolis, taking with him nearly \$3 million in severance. Several other members of the D.C. Blues' senior management team left, too, taking with them another \$3.7 million combined.

Newmyer's story, if corroborated, would supply the smoking gun he said he needs to prove his contention that the Blues' year-long effort to gain regulatory approval for its merger was a sham from the beginning.

That's because Glasscock told regulators that he had no immediate plans to leave, even though Glasscock's employment contract permitted him to do so—taking the severance pay with him—should the merger be consummated.

The insurance commissioners of Maryland and the District each have said they would not have approved the merger had it appeared to be a deal designed to allow executives to profit personally.

The story also would support Newmyer's view of the merger as a cynical power grab, orchestrated by a handful of top executives harboring a quiet agenda to one day convert the new, combined Blues into a for-profit health insurance powerhouse.

But there is no evidence that the meeting ever took place, much less any proof that the

anonymous director ever made such a foolhardy utterance.

And Newmyer is an admitted mortal enemy of Blue Cross plans locally and nationally.

A loud and frequent critic of what he views as shabby treatment of policy holders, he is chairman of the Fair Care Foundation, a Washington-based Blues' watchdog group correctly suing the Blues in the District of Columbia in a long-shot bid to force them to unmerge.

Newmyer says he won't reveal his lunch companion's identity because Fair Care has sued him for breach of fiduciary responsibility, "and I don't want to torment him further, personally."

Still, Newmyer, a Northern Virginia businessman, isn't the only one who finds the circumstances surrounding the Blues deal curious.

Some eight months after its closing, consumer groups and Blue Cross-watchers in other parts of the country are eying the deal here with skepticism.

And there are several peculiarities to the deal, which may lend credence to their view.

THE DEAL

All sorts of level-headed business reasons exist that a merger made sense between Owings Mills-based Blue Cross Blue Shield of Maryland and Washington-based Blue Cross Blue Shield of the National Capital Area.

At the time of the deal's closing, the D.C. Blues had 760,000 members in the District and its highly mobile suburbs in Maryland and Northern Virginia. The Maryland Blues had 1.5 million members in and around Baltimore.

The companies figured that by combining, each would expand its network of providers, allowing members living in Montgomery County (D.C. Blues' territory) but working in the Maryland Blues' Howard County, to see a doctor in either place.

And by getting bigger—the combined Blues would have more than 2.2 million members and \$3 billion in revenue—officials said the company could compete better against its heavily muscled for-profit peers, offer more products and enhance its customer service.

"Affiliating our two contiguous Blue Cross Blue Shield plans is a logical business decision that will allow us to offer our members the most comprehensive health care services available and operate more efficiently over time," said William Jews, president of the Maryland Blues, in a statement in January.

Under terms of the deal, a new holding company would be formed, called CareFirst, based in Owings Mills. CareFirst would operate both Blues' plans as subsidiary companies.

Jews would become president and CEO of CareFirst, as well as CEO of both Blues. Glasscock would be chief operating officer of CareFirst and both Blues, as well as president of both Blues.

But as it turned out, that organizational structure lasted only a few weeks.

QUIET EXIT

On March 27, Indianapolis-based Anthem Inc., an owner of for-profit Blue Cross plans in four states, said that Glasscock would join the company in a new position, senior executive vice president and COO.

Anthem, however, did not make that announcement to the Baltimore or Washington press, and it wasn't known here until May 19, when several newspapers, including The Daily Record, discovered the departure and reported it.

Then and now, Blues officials have insisted that the \$6.5 million in severance payments

made to Glasscock and 25 other departing executives was proper, legal and in line with what high-ranking executives at other, similarly sized Blues plans have received upon departure.

Glasscock repeatedly has refused to speak to the Baltimore media since his departure and declined, again, to comment for this story.

"He only wants to talk about his future with this company," said Patty Coyle, an Anthem spokeswoman.

Others have criticized his golden parachute as a typical example of what happens when state regulators don't monitor the assets of Blues plans—assets built up, in part, by tax breaks granted the Blues because of non-profit status.

Indeed, the circumstances surrounding Glasscock's departure are at the root of one of the fundamental charges levied against the Maryland and D.C. Blues by Fair Care.

GOLDEN PARACHUTE

The organization claims that officials not only knew Glasscock would leave after the merger, but that the merger was contingent upon his agreement to go.

After Glasscock's departure, Jews took over his former jobs, becoming president and CEO of CareFirst and both Blue Cross plans.

"Bill Jews gave Larry Glasscock a \$3 million 'tip' to get out of town," Newmyer said.

There is no hard evidence of that, and the Blues deny it vehemently.

Dwane House, a director of the D.C. Blues until the merger was completed and a high-ranking executive at Anthem until retiring in recent months, said Newmyer's assertion is false.

"To the best of my knowledge, he hadn't made a decision to leave" until after the merger was final, House said from his South Carolina home.

But in support of their contention, merger opponents point to changes that were made to Glasscock's contract with the D.C. Blues in the days leading up to the merger—changes that ensured Glasscock's golden parachute would safely open after the deal closed.

The golden parachute clause in Glasscock's contract allowed him to collect the severance payment should he ever find himself in a job lower than the top position at the D.C. Blues, or any company controlling the D.C. Blues.

The so-called change-in-control clause was altered slightly—but critically—in 1997, while the D.C. and Maryland Blues were seeking regulatory approval for their merger.

To exercise the clause, two things had to happen: The change in control needed to take place leaving Glasscock as the less-than-senior official, and he needed to be terminated, according to a consultant's analysis of the contract prior to the merger.

Although the Blues have maintained that Glasscock resigned his position—and was not fired—Blues spokeswoman Linda Wilfong said he was able to satisfy the latter requirement, because his contract allowed him to terminate himself.

QUESTION OF SELF-DEALING

For merger opponents, the objectionable contract change made it clear that accepting a position as the less-than-senior official in the new merged Blues was not a forfeiture of Glasscock's right to exercise the change-in-control clause.

The provision was added last year, as the companies were jockeying for regulatory approval of the merger.

Many executive compensation packages include change-of-control provisions not unlike Glasscock's—and this one, in fact, did not alarm Sibson & Co., the New Jersey-based analyst hired to review the contract.

Maryland Insurance Commissioner Steven Larsen said he asked for the independent analysis, because he wanted to be sure that the changes made to Glasscock's contract in 1997 would not entitle him to additional severance pay.

He said he was satisfied with the Sibson report's conclusion.

But the Glasscock change took the unusual step of making it clear that he could exercise his change-in-control clause, even though he was helping to engineer the change in control.

In other words, by allowing Glasscock to demote himself through his work in brokering the merger, the change gave him cause to effectively fire himself after the merger was complete, allowing him to collect a \$2.8 million severance.

"When you say, 'What did they do? What happened?' They caused that to happen," Newmyer said. "He [Jews] had to get his hand on the [Blues'] assets, and to do that, he had to get Larry Glasscock out of the way."

NO COMMENT

Both Jews and John Piccioto, the Blues' in-house counsel, declined interview requests to explain why the Blues thought it necessary to alter Glasscock's change-in-control clause, when they say they saw no reason to believe he would be leaving after the merger.

"I think what you're trying to get at is a little too close to the litigation," said Wilfong.

At least one regulatory who reviewed the proposed merger, Dana Sheppard of the District's Office of Corporation Counsel, raised objections to Glasscock's golden parachute on Nov. 24, 1997, two months before the merger closed.

"Mr. Glasscock, as the senior official at [the D.C. Blues], deserves the closest scrutiny, because he entered into the proposed business combination agreement with [the Maryland Blues] knowing that he would not retain his current position in the controlling organization," Sheppard wrote in his proposed conditions to the merger's approval.

"Accordingly, he has positioned himself, intentionally or unintentionally, to leave [the D.C. Blues] with substantial charitable assets."

Given that, Sheppard recommended that the District's insurance commissioner, Patrick Kelly, block the merger unless Glasscock and other executives with change-of-control provisions in their contracts "take appropriate action to immediately render the provision null and void."

On Dec. 23, Kelly approved the merger with a series of conditions—but none required Glasscock to give up the golden parachute.

OVERDRIVE

What happened in the 29 days between Nov. 24 and Dec. 23 to cause Kelly to reject the suggestion of one of the District's own lawyers advising him on the matter?

Newmyer thinks he knows exactly what happened.

"I am 99.9 percent convinced that because Dana Sheppard had raised an issue that truly went at the heart of this matter . . . the lobbyists from Blue Cross went into overdrive," he said.

He believes Blues' lawyers met with Kelly in the days prior to his approval of the merger to convince him to drop Sheppard's suggestion to cut Glasscock's golden parachute.

Kelly did not return a call seeking comment. Sheppard declined to speak for the record, citing Fair Care's pending litigation.

Bob Hunter, director of insurance for the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and the former Texas Insurance Commissioner, said he believes there was an inappropriate meeting.

"Blue Cross got to look at the proposed order and propose changes [when others did not]," Hunter said. "A public process shouldn't happen that way. . . . The District of Columbia should have reorganized the hearing, and as parties, we should have been invited."

The CFA is supporting Fair Care's suit.

SECRET MEETINGS?

Tim Law, an attorney with the Philadelphia law firm handling Fair Care's case, said the group did not know that Sheppard's proposed conditions existed until after the merger was complete. They never received them.

"That's one of the weird things," Law said. "It gets put in the record, but it doesn't get served to everyone. So sometimes, we didn't know about things. Important things, like that."

Wilfong refused to answer any questions related to allegations of secret ex-parte meetings between regulators and Blues' officials, which are at the heart of Fair Care's lawsuit.

The case now is awaiting a decision on an appeal of a District of Columbia judge's ruling that the group does not have standing to sue.

In addition to the alleged meeting between Kelly and Blues' lawyers Nov. 24 and Dec. 23, Fair Care contends that Kelly and Maryland Insurance Commissioner Larsen, in separate Jan. 16 letters, changed their own approvals of the merger after having private meetings with Blues' lawyers.

Kelly and Larsen approved the merger on Dec. 23.

Among other things, the group is angry that both commissioners agreed to make it clear that portions of executive contracts dealing with severance payments negotiated prior to 1997 were not subject to their approval, as both orders had required.

Larsen acknowledges there was a meeting with Blues lawyers prior to the Jan. 16 letter, and that he issued the letter at the Blues' request.

But he insists that there was nothing inappropriate about the meeting or the letter. The purpose of both, he said, was to clarify his order—not to change it.

"That meeting was about as routine as you could have in the context of a very significant order being issued," he said.

"I don't know what else to say, other than to not be able to have that meeting is absolutely absurd. I have a responsibility to the entities I regulate to explain the meanings of the orders I issue," he added.

CHARITABLE?

Along with questions about Glasscock's contract, an ongoing debate questions whether Blue Cross plans, both locally and in other parts of the country, are, in fact, charitable organizations.

Certainly, at first glance, it would appear that they are not. Although nonprofit, they act as insurance companies. They charge premiums like any insurer and expect to be in the black at year's end.

The local Blues long has insisted that it is not a charity, and made that position clear last year to the insurance commissioners.

"I know what the criteria for a charity are," Larsen said. "Blue Cross is not a charity in my view. . . . Blue Cross is" an insurance company."

Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran disagrees. His office long has held that Blue Cross of Maryland is indeed a charitable organization and always has been.

This is not just an academic debate among lawyers, however.

Nationwide, as nonprofit Blues plans have converted themselves into for-profit companies, the answer to the charity question has been crucial to deciding whether the Blues must set aside a portion of assets in public trust, to be used for charitable health purposes.

Just last month, a group of small charities in Georgia settled a lawsuit with that state's Blues in which the now for-profit company agreed to set aside \$64 million in trust.

In California in 1994, California's Blues was forced by the state attorney general to set aside \$3.2 billion in two trusts, said Frank McLoughlin, staff attorney for Community Catalyst, a Boston-based consumer group that monitors nonprofit to for-profit conversions.

"There's a difference between a charity—like a soup kitchen. . . and a charitable organization," said McLoughlin.

"A lot of Blue Cross officials think that because they look like a regular health insurance company and because they act like a regular health insurance company, they're no longer bound by legal doctrine."

CHANGE IN IDENTITY

The Maryland Blues has tried twice—in 1994 and 1995—to convert to for-profit status, but has been thwarted both times. It has made no secret that it may try again.

Locally, the Blues has suffered two setbacks in its attempt to distance itself from that doctrine in the last year.

Last fall, the D.C. Blues tried unsuccessfully to drop its federal charter—which established the company in 1934 as a "charitable and benevolent organization"—in favor of a charter with the District, where the law is vague on the question.

Under a D.C. charter, the Washington Blues would no longer have been identified as a "charitable and benevolent" organization.

Consumer groups that lobbied Congress to block the charter switch, said the language defines its tax-exempt, nonprofit status, as well as its obligation to serve the public.

"To change their identity in the context of what's going on around the country is a harbinger of things to come in the for-profit sector," said Julie Silas, staff attorney with Consumer's Union, which first drew attention to the issue.

And during the 1998 General Assembly session, lobbyists from the Maryland Blues tried to attach an amendment to a bill making it harder for nonprofit health care entities to convert to for-profit.

Curran said the amendment would have made it easier for the Blues to convert without a public set-aside.

The rider seemed innocuous enough. It merely stated that the Blues exist to serve policy holders, not the general public.

But when lawmakers sponsoring the bill learned that such arguments have been made in other states to attempt to establish Blues' plans as non-charitable, they were furious.

"It's sad and embarrassing," said Del. Dan Morhaim, D-Balto. City, one of the sponsors for the legislation, at the time. "It's a slap in the face of Maryland taxpayers."

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 18, 1998]
\$2.9 MILLION HELPS TO LEAVE THE BLUES
BEHIND

(By David S. Hilzenrath)

For occupants of the executive suite, parting may be sweet sorrow, or it may be just plain sweet.

When Larry C. Glasscock left Blue Cross and Blue Shield of the National Capital Area in April to take a job at another health insurer, the former chief executive took with him severance benefits of \$2.9 million.

That was more than six times the salary provided in Glasscock's February 1997 employment contract at the nonprofit company.

A.G. Newmyer III, chairman of Fair Care, a patient advocacy group that has battled Blue Cross, called the package "a disgraceful diversion of charitable assets. . . to the pockets of one executive."

Glasscock didn't return telephone calls seeking a comment, but a spokesman for his new employer, Anthem Inc., quoted him as saying: "I don't want to talk about that—that's ancient history, it's in the past."

Maryland Insurance Commissioner Steven B. Larsen said the package is consistent with industry norms. "There's no question that \$3 million is a significant amount of money, but. . . that must be understood in the context of a situation where you have a CEO who is running a billion-dollar operation, and. . . this is the type of benefit package that people of that caliber receive."

Glasscock's deal reflects the perquisites of executive power, even in the nonprofit sector. His employment contract at the D.C. company permitted him to collect his severance benefits if he left voluntarily after a "change in control," such as the merger he negotiated with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maryland.

When the two Blues combined in January to form CareFirst Inc., the top job went to William L. Jews, who had run the Maryland company, and Glasscock became chief operating officer. A few months later Glasscock moved to a comparable job at Anthem Inc., a Blue Cross insurer in Indiana.

Early last year, even as the two companies were preparing to merge their operations, Glasscock signed a new contract that improved his severance benefits, at least modestly. For example, it provided coverage for travel expenses that Glasscock might incur while looking for a new job, according to a description filed with the Maryland Insurance Administration.

The 1995 version of the contract restricted Glasscock's ability to join a competing company. The February 1997 version of the contract, signed several weeks after the companies announced their intent to combine, relaxed that restriction somewhat, according to an analysis filed with Maryland regulators.

The 1997 version also provided coverage for travel expenses that Glasscock might incur while looking for a new job.

In addition, the updated contract restructured Glasscock's severance package in a way that could have helped him avoid a deep excise tax on golden parachutes. The tax would have applied only if the company issued stock to the public before Glasscock left.

According to an analysis prepared in January by consultants to the D.C. company, Glasscock's 1997 contract entitled him to severance benefits of \$2,874,357 plus any bonuses coming to him under an incentive plan. The total included \$125,000 for serving

as a consultant to the company for a year after leaving and \$1,677, 638 for promising not to compete with it directly.

That set off alarm bells last year in the D.C. Corporation Counsel's Office, which recommended that the "change of control" benefits be eliminated before the merger received approval. Glasscock "has positioned himself, intentionally or unintentionally, to leave . . . with substantial charitable assets," possibly in violation of law, Corporation Counsel John M. Ferren wrote.

But insurance regulators in the District and Maryland decided that the benefits should not stop the deal because they were part of Glasscock's employment contract before the merger was negotiated. The overall cost of the package to Blue Cross remained unchanged from 1995, according to Sibson & Co., a consultant to Blue Cross that prepared a report for D.C. and Maryland regulators.

The actual payment totaled \$2,890,561, Blue cross informed Larsen.

A CLOSER LOOK AT GLOBALIZATION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 2, 1998, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A CLOSER LOOK AT GLOBALIZATION

Hoosiers are becoming more aware of the globalization of the economy—the way that the U.S. economy is increasingly linked to those of other countries through trade and technology. They recognize some of the benefits of this globalization—lower prices for consumer goods and expanded markets for Indiana exports—but they are also concerned when they see jobs eliminated in Indiana and created in Mexico and see the Asian and Russian economic crises hurt our stock market. All of us must more fully understand what effects in our economy can and cannot be attributed to globalization, so we can properly respond to these changes.

MAIN FACTORS

The principal factors involved in globalization are:

Increased telecommunications and transportation networks. Technological changes are the driving force of globalization. These can be seen through telecommunications satellites, fax machines, the internet and other electronic linkages, as well as through expanded and improved land, sea, and air transportation among countries. To take one example, in 1968 only 80 simultaneous phone calls could be made between the U.S. and Europe. Today, satellites and undersea cables can accommodate one million calls at a time.

Increased trade. The volume of world merchandise trade today is 16 times what it was in 1950. Increased trade allows countries to specialize in what they make best, increasing global economic efficiency. The World Bank expects consumers to gain between \$100 billion and \$200 billion every year in additional purchasing power as a result of reduced tariffs and increased trade.

Increased investment. International investment is perhaps the most significant, but least understood, effect of globalization.

Since the 1980s, investment across national borders has increased four times faster than international trade. International investment helps a country use its advantages and makes it more competitive.

BENEFITS AND COSTS

While globalization can have major benefits, it can also be disruptive.

Greater efficiency and falling prices. The development of world markets means that the goods Americans produce the most efficiently will become more profitable, as we are able to sell them to wider markets. And that creates more jobs in America. Consumer prices will also fall on items that we can buy from cheaper producers overseas.

Increased competition. At the same time, globalization means that our less efficient industries will face increasingly tough competition and some jobs could be lost. Increased competition is a two-sided coin, with both winners and losers. But most American firms are able to move into and compete in foreign markets. Because the U.S. economy is already so competitive, many do this exceptionally well.

International investment. Americans can benefit from investments made abroad. Many workers' pension plans are enriched by overseas investments. In addition, America attracts more foreign investment than any other country. When foreign firms build plants in the U.S., jobs are created. Americans also benefit from the innovations that foreign firms bring to the U.S., which have included new technologies and leaner production techniques, such as the "just in time" delivery systems.

The big risk of increased international investment is that it can lead to instability in financial markets. As we have seen in the Asian financial crisis, money that can move into a country very quickly can move out just as fast.

CRITICISMS

Many people have fears about globalization. The most common concerns are three:

First, globalization produces a "race to the bottom" on labor standards. As the news stories on working conditions abroad indicate, there can certainly be problems as good jobs in this country are replaced by jobs in developing countries in which workers have few labor protections. Yet a global economy strengthens jobs in the most dynamic, highest paying sectors of our economy, like exports. Within the U.S., jobs in export-related industries pay, on average, 15% more than other jobs.

The experience of Latin America over the last forty years is instructive: those countries that built tariff barriers to protect local industries and workers began to suffer low growth and falling wages. By contrast, countries elsewhere that opened themselves up more are considered success stories today in terms of labor standards.

Second, globalization weakens environmental standards. When nations become wealthier, they begin to pay more attention to environmental issues. As with labor standards, several decades of experience demonstrate that those countries which have been most open to the world economy have grown the most and have improved their environments the most.

In the short-term, however, there may be some truth to this criticism. Globalization often shifts dirty industries from wealthy nations to poorer ones. The maquiladora industries on the U.S.-Mexican border are an example of this, having attracted U.S. firms seeking weaker environmental standards.

Third, globalization exposes American workers to unfair competition from cheap wages overseas. Many people complain about competition from countries which have poor labor protections and low wages. However, most of the experts agree that roughly 80% of the difference in wages between U.S. and developing country workers can be attributed to differences in productivity. Thus, while Guatemalan workers may have wages that are one fifth what American workers earn, our well-trained workers are typically more than five times as productive, so there is less incentive to move production to Guatemala than initially appears.

CONCLUSION

The evidence on globalization is mixed, and it is difficult to sort it all out. Yet one thing is clear—there is no turning back on globalization. As President Clinton has said, "The technology revolution and globalization are not policy choices, they are facts." Communications satellites, cell phones, the internet, and global financial transactions are here to stay. Succeeding in the 21st Century will mean that Americans must learn to master the global economy. But we will need to make policy changes to cushion the disruptions of these new economic forces and find new ways to manage them.

Next week: Responding to Globalization.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. SEIBERLING

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise my colleagues that yesterday marked the eightieth birthday of our former colleague, John F. Seiberling of Ohio, and to take note of his many accomplishments during his tenure in this body.

A native of Akron and grandson of the founder of the Goodyear Tire and Seiberling Rubber companies, John Seiberling decided in 1970, at age 52, after 3 years of distinguished World War II military service, 5 years of private law practice and 17 years at Goodyear, to run for the U.S. House of Representatives, primarily because of his deep concern over continuation of the U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam War. He quickly established himself as a leader in the ultimately successful effort to end the U.S. involvement, and was elected Chairman of Members of Congress for Peace Through Law, later known as the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

In 1973 he joined the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, where I had the pleasure of serving with him for a number of years. As a member of that committee he played a leading role in the 6-year battle to enact federal legislation to restore damage caused by surface coal mining and prevent further environmental degradation, which culminated with enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. As Chairman of the committee's Public Lands Subcommittee, he also became a leader on land conservation and historic preservation and managed legislation that doubled the size of the national park system and quadrupled the size of the wilderness system, including the addition of more

than 100 million acres of Alaska's most spectacular land. He also spearheaded the enactment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Act, creating Ohio's first and only national park.

In 1986, he decided not to seek re-election, but he had crowded a lifetime of accomplishments into his 16 years of service to this House, to his constituents and to the American Public.

After his retirement, he resumed the practice of law in Akron and also assumed an endowed chair at The University of Akron School of Law. But he has also found time to continue working on the causes he held dear as a member of this body through his service on the Board of Directors of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, a non-profit organization he and other Members founded to provide timely and credible information to Congress on environmental, energy and natural resource issues.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting John F. Seiberling, a Congressional giant, and wishing him many happy returns of the day.

"BILL OF NO RIGHTS"

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents, Mr. Robert Koehl, brought to my attention the following article, "Bill of No Rights," by Jon Jensen.

This column expresses in a very plain, down-to-earth, articulate way the feelings of millions of American citizens.

I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

BILL OF NO RIGHTS

Note: Submitted by a reader, the following document deserves consideration in these victim-oriented times.

We the people of the United States, in an attempt to help everyone get along, restore justice, preserve domestic tranquility, promote positive behavior and secure the blessings of debt-free liberty to ourselves and our grandchildren, hereby try one more time to ordain and establish some common-sense guidelines for the terminally whiny, guilt-ridden, delusional, victim-wanna-bes and grievance gurus.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That a whole lot of people are dreadfully confused by the Bill of Rights, and could benefit from a "Bill of No Rights."

ARTICLE I: You do not have the right to a new car, big screen TV or any other form of wealth. More power to you if you can legally acquire them, but no one is guaranteeing anything.

ARTICLE II: You do not have the right to never be offended. This country is based on freedom for everyone—not just you! You may leave the room, turn the channel, express a different opinion, etc., but always remember the world is full of offensive idiots.

ARTICLE III: You do not have the right to be free from harm. If you stick a screwdriver in your eye, learn to be more careful. Do not expect the tool manufacturer to make you and all your relatives independently wealthy.

ARTICLE IV: You do not have the right to free food and housing. Americans are the most charitable people to be found, and will gladly help those in need, but many are growing weary of subsidizing generation after generation of professional couch potatoes who achieve nothing more than the creation of another generation of professional couch potatoes.

ARTICLE V: You do not have the right to free health care. That would be nice, but from the looks of public housing, health care is not a high priority.

ARTICLE VI: You do not have the right to physically harm other people. If you kidnap, rape, intentionally maim or kill someone, don't be surprised if others want to see you fry in the electric chair.

ARTICLE VII: You do not have the right to the possessions of others. If you rob, cheat or coerce away the goods or services of your neighbors, don't be surprised if others get together and lock you away.

ARTICLE VIII: You don't have the right to demand that our children risk their lives in foreign wars to soothe your aching conscience. We hate oppressive governments. However, Americans do not enjoy parenting the entire world and do not want to spend so much of their time and resources squabbling with each and every little tyrant with a military uniform and a funny hat.

ARTICLE IX: You don't have the right to a job. Everyone wants you to have one, and will gladly help you along in hard times, but we expect you to take advantage of the opportunities of education and vocational training available to you, and to make yourself useful and productive.

ARTICLE X: You do not have the right to happiness. Being an American means that you have the right to pursue happiness, which—by the way—is a lot easier if you are not encumbered by an overabundance of idiotic laws created by those who are confused by the original Bill of Rights.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEE LOCHMANN

HON. ROBERT SMITH

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Leroy Lochmann, President and CEO of ConAgra's Refrigerated Foods Companies, on the occasion of his retirement. Lee's life story is a Horatio Alger story: Lee is a self-made man from humble origins, whose hard work, perseverance and integrity enabled him to climb to the heights of the corporate ladder in our nation's food industry.

Lee entered the food business at the age of 18, beginning on the first rung of the ladder—the slaughtering floor of a Swift and Company meat packing plant. Lee rose from the assembly line to numerous management positions, ultimately becoming President of Swift and Company.

Throughout the remainder of his forty-five year career, Lee would become president of many other leading food companies, including Beatrice Meats; Armour Swift-Eckrich; and ConAgra Refrigerated Foods Companies.

While pursuing a very successful business career, Lee acquired academic degrees from Southern Illinois University and from the Uni-

versity of Virginia. He also served his country in the U.S. Army, having been stationed in Germany for three years.

His ability to develop strategic visions for the many companies he ran, also benefited the meat and poultry industry as a whole, during Lee's five-year term as an officer of the American Meat Institute. A long-time AMI director, Lee was selected by his industry colleagues and competitors to help lead the industry's national trade association and was elected AMI's Chairman of the Board in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Lee Lochmann. His leadership has undergirded his successful career and made him a widely respected and admired leader in the food industry. I only hope that Lee and his family derive as much satisfaction from his retirement years, as he has given to the food industry during his forty-five year career.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4090—PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER MEDAL OF VALOR

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in October of 1996, Captain Brian Alkire of the Sheffield Township, Indiana Fire Department ran into a raging structure fire to warn seven other firefighters of a fire burning in the attic above them. Before he was able to escape with the last firefighter, the roof collapsed, trapping him and Firefighter Louis Lawson in the burning building. Even though he lost his protective headgear in the collapse, Captain Alkire continued to search the toxic, superheated, and smokey room for his colleague before emerging from the structure completely on fire. He saved the lives of those seven firefighters, but as a result of his efforts he received several weeks in the Wishard Burn Unit, numerous skin-grafting surgeries, and months of occupational therapy.

In May of 1998, Baltimore Police Officer Marc Camarote rushed into a working structure fire protected only by his service uniform to rescue two people from a blaze that demolished the entire house. February 1, 1997 found Firefighter Martin Gotte in a burning building across the street from his firehouse, his arms around a little girl whom he rushed from certain death to the skilled hands of first responders who resuscitated her back to life. Lieutenant Walter E. Webb from Washington, D.C.; Lieutenant Earnest B. Copeland from Dallas, Texas; Firefighter Anthony Glover, Nashville, Tennessee; the list goes on and on.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I could fill the RECORD today with names and stories about first responders who have showed such great valor that it might rival the volume of the federal tax code. Every day across America the story is the same, public safety officers, be they firefighters, emergency services personnel, or law enforcement officials, leave their families to join the thin red and blue line that protects us from harm. They put their lives on the line as a shield between death and the precious gift of life.

It is proper then, if not perhaps a bit late, that we should commemorate their dedication and sacrifice with a Medal of Valor that carries the full weight of the Congress and the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support our military and our dedicated soldiers, sailors, and marines, but I think we must constantly be reminded that we have a corps of domestic defenders who are deserving of the same level of support and attention. As our military defenders are honored for gallantry above and beyond the call of duty, so too should we honor our corps of domestic defenders.

Of course, any of you who are familiar with the first responder community will remark that they are probably the last group of people to stand on formality and decoration. Most of them would, on their day off, put their lives at risk to save even a cat in a tree, and they would do so without hesitation. Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, our District of Columbia Fire Department lost a firefighter, Sergeant John Carter. It is both tragic and typical of the first responder community that Sergeant Carter came in to work before his shift started to respond to that fire. Mr. Speaker, this kind of dedication is beyond our power to adequately commemorate even on the House Floor.

In my own Congressional District in October, Mr. Speaker, the Malvern Fire Company will dedicate a monument to their fallen first responders. Across the country, communities will recognize the 94 fire and emergency services personnel who have lost their lives in connection with their duties as a public safety officers this year. This number I'm sure, is supplemented half-again by fallen law enforcement officers. I am pleased then, Mr. Speaker, to give my full support to H.R. 4090, the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor. While we cannot, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, with our poor power add or detract from the gallantry of their work with our actions, we can honor first responders with a Medal that will identify them as heroes to all Americans.

While it would be impossible to name every first responder deserving of this award let me, Mr. Speaker, conclude my remarks by offering the names of fourteen first-responders, in addition to those already mentioned, who would be a good place for the newly formed committee to start: Louis Giancursio—Rochester, NY; Mark E. Gardner—Baltimore, MD; Anthony W. Rivera—San Francisco, CA; Robert Crabtree—Carboro, NC; Jeffery A. Barkley—Phoenix, NY; John Barrett—Bronx, NY; William Benevelli—Boston, MA; Eric Britton—James Island, SC; Myles Burke—Philadelphia, PA; William Callahan—Bronx, NY; Robert Foster—Fort Worth, TX; Landon West—Fort Worth, TX; Mike Lachman—Fort Worth, TX; and Cody Stilwell—Fort Worth, TX.

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TRIBUTE TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE
WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS, THE
TOMS RIVER EAST LITTLE
LEAGUE TEAM

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Little League World Series Champions, Toms River East Little League team.

The 11 and 12 year olds from Toms River, New Jersey sailed through the Little League tournament at Williamsport, Pennsylvania undefeated and won its first Little League World Series championship. Additionally, Toms River East became the first New Jersey team to win the championship since 1975 and the first U.S. team to win since 1993.

Toms River East secured the championship from the team from Japan by a score of 12-9. Chris Cardone, who was 1 for 10 coming into the final game, slugged home runs in consecutive at bats to propel Toms River East to the title.

Also starring in the game was Todd Frazier who had four hits in four at bats including a home run and earned a save in the championship game.

This past weekend, 40,000 fans, friends and family members gathered to welcome the champions home at a parade in their honor. After the speeches were concluded, a question was posed to team manager Mike Gaynor on his feelings about the magical run to the championship. Coach Gaynor summed up the experience "as the time of his life."

Mr. Speaker, I salute the Toms River East Little League team in winning the Little League World Series and to all Little Leaguers around the world who participated and upholding the Little League Pledge of "win or lose, I will always do my best."

THE MEDICARE REHABILITATION
BENEFIT EQUITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act of 1998. This bill will ameliorate the impacts on seniors needing outpatient rehabilitation services of coverage limits on those services imposed by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). Dollar limitations on services will be replaced by a patient classification system effective July 1, 2000.

Between 1990 and 1996 Medicare expenditures for outpatient rehabilitation therapy rose 18 percent annually, totaling \$962 million in 1996. During that time, outpatient rehabilitation spending shifted substantially away from hospitals and toward rehabilitation agencies and comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs). Payments to agencies and CORFs rose at an average annual rate of 23 percent and 35 percent, respectively.

The BBA enacted substantial changes in Medicare's payment policies for outpatient re-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

habilitation services. Two limits are imposed on outpatient rehabilitation services—coverage for physical and speech therapy is capped at \$1,500 per beneficiary per year; coverage for occupational therapy is subject to a separate cap of \$1,500. The limits will become effective for services rendered after January 1, 1999. Rehabilitation services furnished in hospital outpatient departments are excluded from the caps.

Unfortunately, these dollar limits do not take into account patient characteristics such as diagnosis or prior use of inpatient and outpatient services. Implementation of the limits will have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries and may place a financial burden on some beneficiaries.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recently examined the potential impact of the coverage limits and found that some patients were more likely to exceed the dollar limits than others. The Commission found that hip fracture patients had the highest median payments and stroke patients incurred the next highest payments. While Medicare spent, on average, about \$700 per outpatient rehabilitation patient in 1996, half of all stroke patients exceeded the \$1,500 physical and speech therapy limit. In contrast, less than 20 percent of patients with back disorders exceeded the physical and speech therapy limit. In 1996 about one-third of patients treated in non-hospital settings (rehabilitation agencies and CORFs) incurred payments in excess of \$1,500 for outpatient physical and speech therapy or \$1,500 for occupational therapy. Half of the patients affected by the limits exceeded them by \$1,000 or more.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act will minimize the inequity and disruption of the BBA limits without affecting the program savings. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement an alternative coverage policy of outpatient physical therapy services and outpatient occupational therapy services. Instead of uniform, but arbitrary, dollar limitations, the alternative policy would be based on classification of individuals by diagnostic category and prior use of services, in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act also requires that the revised coverage policy of setting durational limits on outpatient physical therapy and occupational therapy services by diagnostic category be implemented in a budget-neutral manner. The payment methodology will be designed so as to result in neither an increase nor decrease in fiscal year expenditures for these services. Current law provisions to adjust the annual coverage limits on outpatient rehabilitation therapy services by the medical economic index (MEI), beginning in 2002, are retained.

The Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Equity Act recognizes that the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Care Financing Administration currently lacks the data necessary to implement a coverage policy based on a patient classification system on January 1, 1999. It further recognizes that assuring services for Medicare beneficiaries in the year 2000 is HCFA's number one priority. For these reasons, a phased transition to a patient classification coverage policy is necessary.

September 9, 1998

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in support of the Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Act of 1998. Together we can ensure that implementation of the BBA dollar limits on outpatient rehabilitation services will not disproportionately affect our most vulnerable Medicare beneficiaries.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES O. WRIGHT,
CHAIRMAN OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
OF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN, INC.

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James O. Wright, chairman of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Incorporated, who is marking 50 years of service with the organization.

Words are a poor measure of Mr. Wright's devotion and commitment to the Goodwill movement and his generous contributions to the community at large. His record is replete with accomplishments that underscore his belief in the power of work and the American Dream.

In 1948, Mr. Wright joined the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin at the age 27. As a result of his unflinching dedication to helping others, he was named chairman of the organization in 1959.

Under Mr. Wright's stewardship, Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin has expanded its mission by administering Employment Solutions of Milwaukee, Inc., a Wisconsin Works (W-2) welfare program that places welfare recipients into jobs. As a component part of W-2 Goodwill also administers the Team Parenting pilot program that supports and strengthens the emotional and financial ties of families.

In 1994, goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin placed 2,222 individuals in the workforce. This achievement earned the organization the 1994 Goodwill Industries International Outstanding Job Placement Services Award.

A Milwaukee native and WWII veteran who served on three navy vessels, Mr. Wright holds that individuals achieve the American Dream by empowering themselves through work, which reveals the individual's potential. In keeping with this creed, Goodwill of Southeastern Wisconsin established the James O. Wright Award to recognize employers, volunteers, and organizations who assist the disabled in seeking their right to work.

Mr. Wright's benevolence also extends beyond his good works for Goodwill and his position as chairman of Badger Meter Inc., one of Milwaukee's top industries. He has championed Urban Day School, a small independent school in Milwaukee's central city. Struck by the school's innovations in educating disadvantaged youth, Mr. Wright led a fund drive to raise \$1.5 million for school scholarships, repairs and teacher salaries. When the fund drive faced a \$5,400 shortfall, Mr. Wright tapped the foundation at Badger Meter to make up the difference. The school

has now established the (W)right Stuff program which brings Mr. Wright together with 9- to 12-year-old African Americans for tours of his company and discussions centering on jobs and the professional world.

Notwithstanding these notable accomplishments, Mr. Wright also has generously contributed his time to the community by serving on the Mequon-Thiensville School Board for 18 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I bring before you a commendation for Mr. James O. Wright, who marks with Goodwill a half century of leadership, commitment and service.

RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 9, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RESPONDING TO GLOBALIZATION

Globalization is the way that the economies of various countries around the world are becoming increasingly linked through improved telecommunications and transportation networks. Over the past decade, world trade has grown twice as fast as the world economy. Numerous companies around the globe are spending several trillion dollars annually on factories and other facilities in countries other than their own. And financial market reforms combined with new information technologies enable traders around the world to exchange hundreds of billions of dollars worth of stocks, bonds, and currencies every day.

The increased trade and foreign investment from globalization can enrich America by increasing our economic efficiency, increasing returns on investments, and creating higher paying export jobs. However, while globalization holds the promise of many benefits for American workers, it is also a disruptive force as U.S. workers in various industries face tough competition from countries where pay and labor standards are much lower. Policy changes will be needed to soften the negative impact of globalization on communities and individuals.

RESPONDING TO THESE CHANGES

Although some of the reactions to globalization may overstate the threat, there are some very valid concerns about its impact. These are some of the concerns and possible ways to respond:

Equity

One concern about globalization is equity. The benefits of globalization are often derived from increased specialization in an economy. In advanced industrial economies such as ours, this means that lower-skill jobs may be lost to imports from developing countries while higher-skilled sectors prosper. Although globalization should have an overall positive effect on our economy, it will tend to drive down the wages of lower skilled workers in the U.S.

Response: We can and should strengthen and improve the social safety nets that have served American society well for decades.

These include worker protections such as unemployment insurance, job retraining programs for workers who lose their jobs due to trade, and support for education and training programs that will build a smarter, more productive workforce.

Environmental and Labor Standards

In developing countries, globalization can lead to worsening labor and environmental standards, at least in the short term. The increased mobility of investment makes it easier for industries to move to poorer countries, where they may take advantage of lax worker protections or environmental regulations.

Response: Over time, globalization actually helps address these problems on its own. By generating wealth and raising employment in those countries, more affluent citizens become more willing and able to demand higher labor and environmental protections. But we should also continue to implement and enforce international labor and environmental agreements, such as the labor standards promoted by the International Labor Organization and the Kyoto Convention on greenhouse gases.

Volatility

The current Asian economic crisis has its roots in globalization. Over the last thirty years, investment has poured into developing countries. This led to spectacular growth in East Asia. Now the world has learned that capital that flows in quickly can flow out just as quickly. Global economic instability of this nature affects the U.S. economy too, hurting our exports and damaging investments.

Response: Many economists have proposed restrictions on short-term investment to address this problem, such as a very small tax on international financial transactions, which would make investors more reluctant to move their money from place to place quickly. Overall, we need to take steps to manage the global economy more carefully. This can be done, though not easily, through institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and new cooperative agreements on regulating global economic activity.

Revenue concerns

When money can be moved easily across borders, it becomes very tempting for corporations to place their assets in "tax havens," that is, countries with very low corporate tax rates. This in turn can lead governments to compete to reduce corporate taxes, which means they must rely more heavily on income taxes on individuals. And, with lower tax revenue, this reduces the ability of countries to respond to the other disruptions of globalization.

Response: New international agreements and standards on tax policies and regulating investment can help minimize this effect. Eventually, governments are likely to find that agreements on harmonizing financial regulations will make it easier to eliminate tax evaders.

AN INEXORABLE PROCESS

There is a parallel between the economic forces which shook the United States early this century and those we are confronting today. For most of the 19th century, the economies of our various states were isolated and independent. However, rapid technology changes, driven by railroads and telegraphs, resulted in a nationalization of the economy. Suddenly, workers became concerned about conditions and competition from neighboring states. Unregulated capital went streaming into frontier ventures, leading to

a series of banking panics. The answer, clearly, was not that the railroads could be torn up or that telegraph lines be pulled down. Instead, Americans found new ways to regulate production and manage the national economy. And the result was the creation of the most efficient wealth-producing economy the world has ever seen.

The challenge today is to find new ways of cooperating in the global economy. That includes reinvigorating and improving the tools of international cooperation that have served as well over the last 50 years. Instruments such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, and new international environmental and labor agreements will have to be strengthened to cushion us from the inevitable shocks.

CONCLUSION

Our number one concern in this increasingly globalized economy is jobs—good and secure jobs for Americans. We must pursue policies that continue to promote economic growth and improve living standards. Just as Americans in the last century successfully found ways to master the economic forces of that day, so Americans now must find ways to master, and not resist, the forces of today's global economy.

SALUTE TO 10 BAY AREA ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to ten outstanding environmental leaders in the San Francisco Bay Area who recently were rightly named by the Contra Costa Times as "Ten Natural Treasures."

These men and women—some of them my constituents, some activists with whom I have had the honor to work—have fought tenaciously to protect and preserve not only the resources and the environment of the Bay Area, but also the health and safety of the millions of people who call this very special region our home. Their vision and their dedication establish how determined individuals can change our society for the better, and preserve its treasures for generations to come.

I would like to submit the August 31, 1998 editorial from the Contra Costa Times, and ask all my colleagues to join in recognizing these outstanding environmental leaders.

TEN NATURAL TREASURES

Last week Times staff writer James Bruggers profiled 10 Bay Area environmentalists—citizen activists—who have left an indelible mark on this glorious area. They are residents who made a tremendous difference in the landscape—literally and figuratively.

Their efforts have changed how we think about open space, clean water and the ecology of our home.

Some of them—such as David Brower—are national stars of the movement. Others have made just as significant contributions but at a more local level.

For the record, they are:

David Brower, 86. He's considered the patriarch of the American environmental movement. Once a leader of the Sierra Club, he parted ways with the group in 1969 and

formed Friends of the Earth and Earth Island Institute.

Margaret Tracy, 75. She cofounded the Preserve Area Ridgelines Committee, envisioning a network of trails connecting East Bay open spaces.

Dwight Steele, 84. He was a successful lawyer who chucked it all to devote his legal mind to environmental laws through pro-bono work. He fought to keep San Francisco Bay waters open and Lake Tahoe free of pollution.

Silvia McGlaughlin, 81. She helped found the Save San Francisco Bay Association, essentially protecting it from infill and development.

Robert Stebbins, 83. His scientific work was the basis for the California Desert Protection Act, passed Congress in 1994.

Mary Bowerman, 90ish. A co-founder of Save Mount Diablo, she is a botanist who worked to expand the Mt. Diablo State Park's lands.

Will and Jean Siri, late 70s. They fought for environmental justice in poor East Bay communities. The Siris helped give residents living near refineries a political voice.

Manfred Lindner, 78. He pressed for Morgan Territory and Las Trampas regional parks.

Edgar Wayburn, 91. He tenaciously pushed for establishing Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Marin and San Francisco.

These 10 individuals left their footprints on the West. They fought, argued, lobbied and persuaded residents and their legislators that the Bay Area is full of natural treasures worth preserving.

It was our responsibility—and to our benefit—to treat them and their deeds with respect.

They saw where disregard of the environment would lead. They grabbed the wheel and insisted we change course. They resolved to preserve the integrity of the Bay Area so that it would still be noted for its uniqueness and its beauty for generations.

We thank these people, these visionaries, for their efforts. Indeed their sweat equity has paid off.

Yet despite their youthful energy, these trailblazers won't be leading the charge much longer. Their ages attest to that. Looking beyond the next few years, we wonder whether the next generation is up to the task. Will leaders come forward to carry the banner into the next millennium?

The answer, of course, must be yes. Otherwise, all of the work of these environmental pioneers will have been in vain.

Environmental issues of tomorrow include safe and sufficient water supply, suburban sprawl, the competing needs of endangered species and private property rights, old growth forests, our oceans, and the biggie, overpopulation.

The challenges are plenty and the opportunities grand for those with the courage, tenacity, devotion and vision to accept them.

We salute these men and women and suggest that they are in and of themselves, treasures.

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE: A WAY TO SAVE LIVES AND DOLLARS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Congress should enact legislation to allow Medicare to con-

centrate certain difficult surgical procedures in hospitals of special excellence in those procedures. If we did this, we would certainly save lives because the data is overwhelming that some hospitals do difficult procedures better than other hospitals. Better patient outcomes also means savings to Medicare by the avoidance of complications and repeat surgery. It also offers the chance for Medicare to negotiate a bundled, lower payment: Medicare will guarantee a higher volume of patients in exchange for volume price discounts.

I've introduced legislation to establish a Centers of Excellence program, H.R. 2726, which I hope can be enacted in the next Congress.

The Annals of Surgery's July 1998 issue contains an article which proves, once again, what a life-saver this type of program can be. Following is the abstract of the article, describing using centers of excellence for pancreaticoduodenectomy—a "complex, high-risk general surgical procedure usually performed for malignancies of the pancreas" and duodenum area:

STATEWIDE REGIONALIZATION OF PANCREATODUODENECTOMY AND ITS EFFECT ON IN-HOSPITAL MORTALITY OBJECTIVE

This study examined a statewide trend in Maryland toward regionalization of pancreaticoduodenectomy over a 12-year period and its effect on statewide in-hospital mortality rates for this procedure.

SUMMARY BACKGROUND DATA

Previous studies have demonstrated that the best outcomes are achieved in centers performing large numbers of pancreaticoduodenectomies, which suggests that regionalization could lower the overall in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure.

METHODS

Maryland state hospital discharge data were used to select records of patients undergoing a pancreaticoduodenectomy between 1984 and 1995. Hospital is were classified into high-volume and low-volume provider groups. Trends in surgical volume and mortality rates were examined by provider groups and for the entire state. Regression analyses were used to examine whether hospital share of pancreaticoduodenectomies was a significant predictor of the in-hospital mortality rate, adjusting for study year and patient characteristics. The portion of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure attributable to the high-volume provider's increasing share was determined.

RESULTS

A total of 795 pancreaticoduodenectomies were performed in Maryland at 43 hospitals from 1984 to 1995 (Maryland residents only). During this period, one institution increased its yearly share of pancreaticoduodenectomies from 20.7% to 58.5%, and the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure decreased from 17.2% to 4.9%. After adjustment for patient characteristics and study year, hospital share remained a significant predictor of mortality. An estimated 61% of the decline in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for the procedure was attributable to the increase in share of discharges at the high-volume provider.

CONCLUSIONS

A trend toward regionalization of pancreaticoduodenectomy over a 12-year pe-

riod in Maryland was associated with significant decrease in the statewide in-hospital mortality rate for this procedure, demonstrating the effectiveness of regionalization for high-risk surgery.

HONORING GUAM'S ARTIST, ERIKA KRISTINE DAVID, DURING THE CHILDART USA EXHIBITION

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on July 24, 1998, the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) announced that young Erika Kristine David's artwork has been selected for the ChildArt USA Exhibition. This exhibition was on display from September 5-8 in the Atrium Hall of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC. Young Erika is one of the fifty talented child artists whose work has been selected for this exhibition.

The artwork was selected from an outreach program to elementary and middle schools of nearly every school district in the country. The participants are young students ranging from ages 8 to 12 years old, who submitted their artwork based on the theme: My World in the Year 2000. Fifty child artists, representing 30 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam, were invited by ICAF to attend the ChildArt USA Festival and Exhibition opening on the Labor Day weekend.

Erika Kristine David is the youngest daughter of Enrico and Tess David of Mangilao, Guam. She is a fourth grade student at the Price Elementary School on Guam. Her art teacher Vicky Loughran and her father Enrico traveled to Washington, DC, to attend the ChildArt USA Exhibition. Her favorite subject is art and music and when she grows up she wants to be an artist or a singer. Her other hobbies are spending time with her family and pets, reading, traveling, practicing art, listening to music and snorkeling. The theme of her artwork, My World in the Year 2000, depicts people of the world enjoying a healthy and good life. People feeling safe outdoors, exercising, barbecuing, picnicking and having fun in the sun and in the water.

It is with great pride that today I honor Erika Kristine David from Guam, whose artwork has not only exposed the talent and artistry of the people of Guam, but also whose art has been brought here in the Nation's Capital for all people to enjoy. Erika, along with other young artists collaborated with professional adult artists to create a unique 16 ft. x 24 ft. mural on the National Mall. The theme of the mural is America 2000.

Because of organizations such as "The International Child Art Foundation (ICAF)," a nonprofit group, dedicated to the promotion of children's art and visual global learning, that young artists like Erika Kristine David have been provided an outlet for their work. These young students' talent and artistry will be acknowledged by all who enjoy the arts and praised by those organizations whose mission is to promote arts for the people.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Erika Kristine David's artwork and to highlight the artistic talents of the young students of Guam.

REMEMBERING PETER "JERRY" MIKACICH

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in tribute to the late Gerald Peter "Jerry" Mikacich of Sacramento, California. As a beloved husband, father, and friend to many, Jerry Mikacich will be remembered as one of our community's most active and giving citizens.

Today, Jerry will be eulogized at a memorial Mass in his hometown. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to this incredibly caring man whose goodwill will indeed be his lasting legacy.

A native of Northern California, Jerry Mikacich was born in Sacramento on May 10, 1930. He was an active student, athlete and Eagle Scout before he graduated from Christian Brothers High School in 1948. Then, he enrolled at Sacramento Junior College which is Sacramento City College today, and eventually San Jose State.

Since the 1940s, Jerry had a reputation as an avid skier, beginning in childhood and blossoming into a long-term career as a ski shop proprietor. Throughout college, Jerry was known to be a great fan of skiing and an exceptional athlete. In fact, Jerry first came to know his future wife Georgia on the ski slopes.

After college, Jerry soon established a reputation as an expert in the field of winter sporting equipment. Skiers in our area came to rely on Jerry's professional assistance and wisdom. He made this sport available to many who otherwise would never have experienced its thrills, including amputees for whom he adapted ski equipment.

The strength of Jerry's personal character was forever a part of his life. He and Georgia were married on June 19, 1961 and their union remained strong until his passing. As a caring entrepreneur and devoted family man, he served as an outstanding role model for many.

On a personal note, Jerry Mikacich was one of my most valued friends since the early days of my career in public service. He was always there for me and his assistance was tireless and very much appreciated. My thoughts and prayers are with Jerry's wife Georgia, his mother Lottie Munizich Mikacich, his four children, and all the rest of his family during this most difficult of times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in remembering a gracious and generous man, as well as a very dear friend, Jerry Mikacich.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. LOUIS CARDINAL MARK MCGWIRE

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mark McGwire and his awesome feat in setting a new, single-season home run record.

Throughout this season, Americans have been treated to one of the most incredible sporting achievements of our lifetime. The single-season home run mark of 61 stood as perhaps the most awesome feat in baseball history. I feel privileged to have been able to witness Mark McGwire in action this year—every baseball fan in America knows that they have seen something special in 1998.

Roger Maris set that record 37 years ago, topping perhaps the most impressive achievement of Babe Ruth, the best all-around player ever to take the field in professional baseball. Watching McGwire's pursuit of 62 home runs, placing him among icons like Ruth and Maris, has been a pure joy to witness.

Mark McGwire is not only an outstanding athlete, he is also a man whose conduct epitomizes good sportsmanship. He has remained focused on his goal in the face of a media frenzy and a sea of exploding in flash bulbs. And he did it with amazing grace and real class.

The chase showed something special about Mark McGwire. But it also showed me something special about the people of St. Louis. The fact that seven very lucky fans gave up progressively larger amounts of money, returning their souvenir home runs balls to Number 25, showed that Cardinals fans truly are, as Baseball America called them, the Best Baseball Fans in America. These fans showed their true spirit when they stood and cheered not only for St. Louis' own Mark McGwire, but also for that great athlete, the Cub's, Sammy Sosa.

Mr. Speaker, I could not be more proud to say I am from St. Louis, and I could not be more proud to say I am a Cardinals fan. Thank you and congratulations Mark McGwire.

FIXING THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 26, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FIXING THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM

Much has been written in recent months about the so-called Year 2000 computer problem. The difficulty arises because the computer software coded to mark the years uses only two digits. If the appropriate adjustments are not made when New Years 2000 rolls around, many of these systems will jump back to the year 1900, causing disruptions in government and private sector operations, here and abroad.

Not many people talk to me about their fears of chaos in the world's computer sys-

tems in the year 2000. I suspect that most people don't take those fears too seriously and simply believe that the technicians can solve it. But with the year 2000 now only about five hundred days away, it has become clear that the United States needs to move more quickly to address the problem. Federal and state governments as well as businesses are making progress, but more needs to be done if we are to avoid significant disruptions in our economy.

THE PROBLEM

The Year 2000 problem, also known as Y2K or the Millennium bug, has become an important issue in the past few years. The cause of the concern is that many computers store dates using two-digit numbers rather than four: 98 for 1998 and 00 for 2000. This makes 2000 indistinguishable from 1900, causing date sensitive systems to malfunction or stop working completely. Government agencies, private sector businesses, and individuals all face significant problems if their computer systems are not Y2K compliant. The breakdowns could be minor, but they could also disable air traffic control systems, financial networks, power grids, hospitals, home appliances and many other computer systems.

The Year 2000 problem can be fixed by the time-consuming and costly process of checking each program for potential errors. Millions of lines of software code must be renovated for every computer system. In addition, billions of embedded chips currently in use must be inspected for Y2K compliance, and an estimated 1-5% of those chips will probably have to be replaced. No universal solution can be created to fix each system, and nobody knows how much it will cost to solve the problem. One estimate is that U.S. businesses will spend \$50-\$300 billion and that the U.S. government will have to spend \$5-\$30 billion to fix its computers. The worldwide bill for this massive repair effort may come between \$300-\$600 billion. Correcting the problem will be further complicated by the fact that computer systems are increasingly interconnected—so that even if, for example, a major business fixes its computers, those very systems could break down as they interact with customers, clients and suppliers whose systems have not been fixed.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSE

The federal government has taken an active role in Y2K repairs for its own systems. Federal agencies maintain many computer systems that manage large databases, conduct electronic monetary transactions, and control numerous interactions with other computer systems. The primary focus is to fix all of the 7,300 "mission-critical" systems necessary to continue these activities. A recent report concluded that 55% of the repair work is complete, but progress varies greatly by agency. The Social Security Administration expects to be ready for the year 2000 by January 1999 to ensure that Social Security checks continue to go out on time. Other agencies are expected to be on a tight schedule to meet the year 2000 deadline, and still others will probably not make it.

State and local governments are generally acting more slowly in response to the Y2K problem. Some states have begun planning Y2K conversions, but last year only 19 were beginning to implement the plans. Many localities are not emphasizing Y2K repairs, either for a lack of resources or awareness. Experts warn that state and local computer systems, even if repaired, may not be compatible with federal systems or may contaminate Y2K compliant systems with non-

Y2K compliant data. In 1997, state and federal officials met to develop a set of standard practices to minimize risks involved in intergovernmental data exchanges. Several local government associations have also launched an awareness campaign to aid lagging localities.

PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE

Businesses will also have to become Y2K compliant if they are to avoid disruptions in their operations and transactions with governments and other private entities. The federal government is working actively with certain critical industries, including transportation, communications, health care, and financial institutions, to meet government standards in Y2K compliance. The Federal Reserve Board is preparing for the worst case scenario but is expecting most major banks to be Y2K compliant by the new millennium.

Current estimates suggest that 85% of industrial software will be fixed or replaced by the year 2000, at a total cost of at least \$300 billion. Congress is considering several measures to help the private sector address the Y2K problem. One bill seeks to promote open sharing of information about Y2K solutions by protecting those businesses that share information in good faith from lawsuits. Another measure would seek to limit the liability that a company can face if its products are not year 2000 compliant.

EFFECT ON PRIVATE CITIZENS

The Y2K problem also may present difficulties for the average citizen. Many electronic devices, including automobiles, cameras, televisions, and cellular phones, are not expected to cause problems. There may, however, be problems with fax machines, pagers, telephones, video recorders, and especially personal computers. The Y2K compatibility of personal computer software varies by the program, so consumers are advised to call the manufacturer to find out about specific programs and insist on in-store tests when purchasing new software. Experts also suggest that consumers keep accurate records of finances and investments in the event that a computer error occurs at your bank or the IRS.

CONCLUSION

The federal government has been slow to recognize the seriousness of the problem. Initial warnings came in 1989 that the world was headed for a computer crisis, but it was not until the mid-1990s, after much prompting from Congress, that many federal agencies began to move, first from an awareness of the problem, then to an assessment of it, and now to the correction of it. The federal government will not be able to guarantee that every computer can be fixed on time, but it is beginning to manage the risks. The government and industry have many improvements to make before the year 2000. While the task is large and tedious, our computers must be Y2K compliant for the electronics aspects of life to continue as normal.

WHY WE SHOULD QUESTION HOSPITAL HOME HEALTH REFERRALS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on August 6, the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee held a

hearing on the problems facing home health agencies because of payment changes made in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

In theory, for good and honest agencies, the BBA should not have created problems. It simply asks home health agencies (HHAs) to practice the type of care they practiced in 1994, before many HHAs greatly increased their number of visits per patient and their costs per visit. The theory assumed, of course, that HHAs are serving the same kind of patients they received in 1994.

But between 1990 and 1996, the number of HHAs owned by hospitals nearly doubled, and today, about half the nation's hospitals own HHAs.

So what, you say? At the August 6 hearing, one independent HHA testified, saying what several HHAs have told me privately:

As a freestanding agency, Great Rivers Home Care receives few referrals from hospitals since most have their own home health agencies. Our experience is that the hospitals refer the short term, less complex cases to their own agencies and the sicker, more costly, long term patients are then cared for by agencies like ours.

I do not know the quality of care provided by Great Rivers, but I do know they dared say what others are only saying privately. Before we casually throw more money at the home health sector, we should ask whether there is a self-referral abuse that is causing serious distortions in this part of Medicare.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOODLAKE GOT-A-JOB SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program for its commitment and dedication to the lives of youth throughout Southeastern Tulare County. The Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program provides a valuable learning experience for youth in developing job skills for their future.

The Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program is funded and directed by Community Services and Employment Training Incorporated. Woodlake Got-A-Job has taken a leading role in shaping positive values in young people's lives. Many large and small businesses of Southeastern Tulare County have met a vital community need by offering to employ Woodlake Got-A-Job youth in a variety of work opportunity programs. The community of Woodlake participates by donating supplies and money to the Got-A-Job Program in support of their youth.

The Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program offers job skills training and confidence building exercises to teenagers. The guidance and teachings offered by this organization improves the economic health of the community and fosters a positive work ethic in tomorrow's leaders.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the Woodlake Got-A-Job Summer Youth Employment Program. The Got-A-Job

Summer Youth Program's commitment and dedication to the youth of Southeastern Tulare County is commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Woodlake Got-A-Job Program many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. MANCINI

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great community leader and close friend, James J. Mancini of Long Beach Township. On Friday, September 11, 1998, some of us will "roast" Jim by poking fun at some of his more colorful characteristics. But, make no mistake, when it comes down to representing the people of Ocean County, Jim Mancini is very serious, very sincere, and very successful.

First elected to the Ocean County Board of Freeholders in 1982, Jim has proved to be a strong advocate of senior citizens, veterans and the disabled, and has improved transportation programs and library services.

With the largest senior population in the State, Freeholder Mancini, who also is the long-time Mayor of Long Beach Township, serves as the Chairman of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. A veteran of World War II, Freeholder Mancini's work with the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau has resulted in an increase in services to the more than 50,000 veterans living in the County. He has received numerous accolades from veterans service organizations for his work, and is a recipient of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Jim became Mayor of the seaside community of Long Beach Township in 1964, and continues in that capacity today. He served as a State Assemblyman in the 1970s, and was Ocean County's Freeholder-Director in 1985, 1991 and 1994.

He is the Chairman of the Board of Southern Ocean County Hospital in Stafford Township, and is the Vice President of the Long Beach Island St. Francis Community Center Corporation.

Jim and his wife, Madeline, have nine adult children: Susan, Joseph, Nancy, Annmarie, Jane, Joan, James, Jr., Madeline and Henry, and 12 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, On September 11, I will share a few laughs with my good friend, Jim Mancini. But, all jokes aside, Jim Mancini is a leader for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration. Our communities thank him for his commitment to improving our quality of life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BAKERSFIELD SOUTHWEST BASEBALL TEAM

HON. BILL THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievement of a group of

young people in my District. On the weekend of August 22, 1998 in Purcellville, Virginia, the Bakersfield Southwest baseball team completed a remarkable season and captured the 16-year-old Babe Ruth World Series championship.

We are thrilled with the great feats accomplished by this Bakersfield Southwest team. In the past four years, the Southwest team posted an amazing 55-4 record in the Babe Ruth league. In this year's World Series, Bakersfield was undefeated in winning the championship, which included a pair of two-hitters and a masterful shutout in the finale. Bakersfield Southwest also became the first team to win back-to-back World Series championships in their age group! All of this was done in a particularly special year for Babe Ruth baseball since 1998 is the 50th anniversary of the Babe's death.

But amidst all of these accomplishments, I am most proud of this team for the dedication and effort that they put into winning this second title. After winning the first, day in and day out, this team worked to correct mistakes and enhance skills. When I think of the way this team worked together, I remember the words of the immortal Babe Ruth: "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." Bakersfield Southwest had its collection of individual stars, but the team worked together, maximizing its many strengths. In all their effort and hard work, they epitomized the great American pastime we call baseball; they worked together, played together, and had fun together. I am sure that the skill and determination exhibited by this team will carry over to make them winners in life as well.

I would like to express my appreciation to Manager Dave Hillis for guiding this team, as well as Coaches Bob Soto, Ben Bradford, Mark Parker, and Ken Miller for all their fine work. Most importantly, I would also like to congratulate Spencer Bailey, Brian Bock, Clint Bradford, Tommy Brast, Travis Hamlin, Tony Hillis, Shaine Jensen, Darrin Levinson, Derick Martin, Ryan Mask, Scott Mawson, Todd Sachs, Sean Sorrow, Ty Soto, Brent Warren, and Josh Wyrick for an outstanding season and a string of masterful years in the Babe Ruth League. Although I did not dye my hair blonde as was the team's trademark, I, like many others from my District, salute Bakersfield Southwest and thank the team for representing Bakersfield with extreme honor, dignity, and sportsmanship.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to 62 distinguished citizens of the Eleventh District of Virginia, the members of the Fairfax

County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team. Called Virginia Task Force One, this brave team of men and women has served as our humanitarian diplomats to cities in crisis.

On August 7, 1998, the world was rocked by twin explosions. The American Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania were destroyed in tragic, unconscionably cruel bombings that took the lives of innocent East Africans and Americans. As we stared in numb disbelief at news reports that overflowed with heart-wrenching images and constantly rising death counts, Virginia Task Force One was already alerted and preparing for their daunting mission.

Within 12 hours of the bombings, Virginia Task Force One was fully mobilized for deployment to Africa. Less than 24 hours after the explosions, as many of us were still grasping to understand this tragedy, the team was en route from Andrews Air Force Base to Nairobi. Search and rescue technicians, cave-in experts, physicians, paramedics, logisticians, and command and control personnel comprised the 62-member Task Force, led by Battalion Chief Michael Tamillow and retired Deputy Chief James Strickland.

Virginia Task Force One worked tirelessly with search and rescue teams from Kenya and Israel, transforming the chaos of Friday into an orderly and systematic search for any survivors, and for key evidence to piece together the cause of the event. For the first several days of the rescue effort, team members ran two twelve-hour shifts to provide round-the-clock operations. The work was especially dangerous during the night, due to the poor light and danger of shifting debris. After they had gone through the entire debris pile, well ahead of schedule, and it was clear that they would find no more survivors, they ceased nighttime operations. Despite the grueling labor, dangerous conditions, and long hours, the members of the Task Force consistently reported that they were "in good spirits and . . . happy to be contributing to the effort."

Chief Strickland, co-commander of the mission, reported feeling a sense of déjà vu as he surveyed the wreckage in Nairobi. He compared it to the devastation he had observed when the Virginia Task Force assisted rescue efforts in Oklahoma City, after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. Nairobi was not the first or even the second scene of mass destruction heroically attended by the Fairfax County Team. As one of only two search and rescue task forces in the U.S. trained and authorized for overseas disaster deployment, Virginia Task Force One has been deployed to Armenia and the Philippines, as well as Oklahoma City and Kenya.

The men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team answered their nation's call for help. Their work as not glamorous; they quite literally dug in, lifting away thousands of pounds of concrete and steel in the searing African sun. They labored in the face of danger, even switching hotels to evade the bombers, who were still at large. They labored in the face of horrific tragedy, but they never lost faith in their purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring the Urban Search and Rescue

Team of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The men and women of Virginia Task Force One left their homes and families, traveling thousands of miles to represent the United States in a purely humanitarian mission. Their nobility of purpose and action was an honor to witness. I am proud to represent such heroic citizens.

STOPPING ABUSE OF MEDICARE LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL PAYMENT SYSTEM

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today to close a loophole in the way Medicare pays long-term care hospitals—hospitals which treat people with severe problems and which have an average length of stay (ALOS) of more than 25 days.

Some so-called TEFRA hospitals establish extremely high patient costs in the first year or two of operation, which establishes the rate at which they will be paid under Medicare in future years. Once that rate is established, they immediately go to a much lower cost mix of patients, but get paid as if they still had a very sick, expensive patient caseload. The bill I am introducing would help curb this gaming of the system.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 19, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE WORK OF CONGRESS

The work of Congress often seems laborious and painfully slow. We hear complaints about legislative stalemate, excessive partisanship, and the "do-nothing" Congress. Sometimes it is hard to discern good reasons for the inefficiencies and delays that occur. But often the difficulty of passing legislation stems from the very nature of our representative democracy and from our changing country and changing political climate. The work of Congress has become much more difficult over the past several years.

The job of Congress: Although the job of a Congressman involves several different roles, the main ones are as representative and legislator. As a representative, a Member serves as an agent for his constituents, ensuring that their views are heard in Congress and that they are treated fairly by federal bureaucrats and other public officials. As a legislator, a Member participates in the law-making process by drafting bills and amendments, engaging in debate, and attempting to build the consensus necessary to address our nation's problems. Fulfilling these roles may sound easy, but can be enormously difficult.

Some things, it must be said, have helped to make the work more manageable in recent years. Congress has moved into the information age, as computers, faxes, and

Internet access help Members communicate with citizens. Large numbers of congressional staff help Members respond to constituent mail and research legislation. The expansion of think tanks and public policy research helps provide lawmakers with detailed analysis of policy options.

Increased difficulty: However, the elaborate constitutional system of separated powers and checks and balances created by our founding fathers still requires that compromise and consensus occur for legislation to pass. This protects people from the tyranny of the majority, but also makes it difficult for Congress to act. Since I have been in Congress the job of a Congressman has become increasingly difficult, for several reasons:

First, the country has grown larger and more diverse. The population of the country has more than doubled since I was in high school. Each Member of the House now represents almost 600,000 constituents; almost 50% more than in the 1960s. Americans also vary more now in terms of occupation, race, religion, and national origin. The increasingly diverse background of constituents expands the range of interests and differences that must be reconciled to produce consensus on major issues.

Second, the issues have grown more numerous and more complex. Today's Congress tackles a host of topics that simply were not around a few decades ago, from campaign "soft money" and HMO's to cloning and cyberspace. Also, the issues we consider have become more technical and complicated. A recent environmental bill before Congress reminded me of my college chemistry textbook.

Third, the issues have also become more partisan. The policy agenda always has included divisive items, but in past years these divisions typically were not partisan. An individual you disagreed with on one issue likely would support your view on many other items, making it easier to strike bargains and achieve consensus. With the intensity of American politics today, issues often have a sharper, partisan flavor. Policy debates frequently split constituents and their elected representatives by party, making the two major parties resemble warring camps more than potential partners in compromise.

Fourth, there are more policy players in the legislative process. For instance, in the 1960s just a handful of major groups were actively involved in foreign policy making. Now there are literally hundreds, including the business and agriculture communities, nonprofits and public interest groups, labor unions, ethnic groups, and international organizations. The cast of important players has similarly expanded in the numerous other policy areas.

Fifth, although the workload of Congress has expanded, the number of hours in session in recent years has actually dropped. The leadership has chosen to have the House now work basically only 2½ day weeks, with many Members arriving in Washington on Tuesday afternoon and leaving for their districts on Thursday evening. As a result, Members have less time to know each other well and to work out their differences, thus making consensus-building even harder.

Sixth, the cost of campaigns has skyrocketed, driven largely by the cost of television advertising. Members today must spend a disproportionate amount of time fundraising, which means less time with constituents discussing the issues and less time with colleagues forging legislation and monitoring federal bureaucrats. Also, special in-

terest support may drive some Members to lock in their views earlier, reducing their flexibility and making compromise harder.

Seventh, the tone in Congress has changed dramatically over the past several years, with more partisan bickering and personal attacks, and less civility. That takes a significant toll. It poisons the atmosphere and complicates the efforts of Members to come together and pass legislation for the good of the country. In the end, Congress works through a process of give and take, which is far more difficult with strained relationships across the aisle.

Eighth, the media tend to favor the extreme views on any given issue, emphasizing the differences and downplaying the areas of agreement. That can polarize the issue and make agreement more difficult to reach.

Finally, public suspicion of politicians is greater today than it was in past decades. Americans have always had a healthy skepticism about government, but problems arise when they become cynical and have little trust in what their leaders say or do. It is difficult for Members of Congress to even discuss the issues with constituents when their character, values and motives are always suspect.

Conclusion: It is easy to criticize Congress. As Members are clearly aware, many criticisms of the institution are justified. But we need to get beyond that and recognize that certain perceived shortcomings of Congress are actually inherent features of any legislature in a large, diverse, and complicated country. Members of Congress need a certain degree of trust from their constituents if they are to fulfill their roles as representative and legislator—not unconditional trust, but support meshed with constructive skepticism and a reasonable understanding of the difficulties the institution confronts.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment, which would restore funding for the Legal Services Corporation to current levels.

The Legal Services Corporation is a lifeline for thousands of people with no other means of access to the legal system. Last year, LSC resolved 1.5 million civil cases, benefiting over four million indigent citizens from every country in America.

Who are these people? Over two-thirds are women, and most are mothers with children. Women seeking protection against abusive spouses. Children living in poverty and neglect. Elderly people threatened by eviction or victimized by consumer fraud. Veterans denied benefits, and small farmers facing foreclosure.

These are the people who will be hurt if this amendment is not adopted today. If LSC is forced to absorb the huge cuts made in committee, half of the 1,100 neighborhood legal services offices will have to be closed. This will leave a single lawyer to serve every 23,600 poor Americans. Over 700,000 people in need of legal services will have to be turned away.

We cannot—we must not—allow this to happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment. It's the decent thing to do.

REMARKS OF ERIC W. BENKEN, CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT OF THE AIR FORCE

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Eric W. Benken, who recently made some very insightful remarks regarding national security on August 22, 1998, at the Noncommissioned Officers Association 1998 Annual Awards Banquet, that I believe would be of interest to all the members of the House of Representatives:

CHALLENGING TIMES—BRIGHT FUTURE— STRENGTH IN UNITY

It's always tough to follow the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team—outstanding individuals—anytime someone says there is something wrong with America's young people—I point to them as an example of what's right with America. And the Air Force Singing Sergeants—a magnificent group and I might add, the product of successful gender integrated training—they are no longer an all male chorus group like they were in the beginning!

Congressman Montgomery, sir, it's great to have you with us here tonight—a recipient of the Air Force Order of the Sword—the highest tribute that can be bestowed upon anyone by the enlisted force—a great patriot and ardent supporter of our military.

President and Mrs. Putnam, my service counterparts, members of the foreign joints, Vanguard Award Recipients and distinguished members of the Noncommissioned Officers Association. It's a tremendous pleasure for my wife Johnne and I to be here tonight as I address this distinguished audience of patriots and great Americans.

Tonight I want to talk to you a little bit about the challenges we face—and a little bit about our future.

First of all, it's important to recognize that this snapshot in history in which we live is like no other. There has never been another decade like the '90s. And the reason is simple—the cold war is over. For about 45 years it was NATO and the Warsaw Pact going toe to toe. We had the Berlin Wall that represented a visual distinction between democracy and communism—the separation of good and evil, if you will. Our tanks and artillery faced off in the Fulda Gap. We had large numbers of forward based installations with a policy of containment.

We lived under the umbrella of nuclear annihilation. Remember the drills we had in high school? An alarm would sound indicating a nuclear missile was inbound from the Soviet Union—and we would dive under our desk. Like that would do any good! And

we always had that fanatic next door who was building an underground fallout shelter. You remember vividly the Cuban Missile Crisis—when President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev did political battle over the placement of missiles in Cuba.

In the early 1980s, President Reagan responded to the hollow force of the late '70s and the continuing cold war threat and began to rebuild our armed forces to take on the "Evil Empire." We had plenty of money for defense and plenty of people to do the mission. The '80s presented few problems for us in terms of manpower and resources, and deployments were few. Life was bliss.

In November of 1989, one of the most dynamic events of this century took place in Berlin. We watched on CNN as the wall was torn down. I was assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium. We were knee deep in containment war plans. We couldn't believe our eyes at what was happening. What were we going to do next? As the wall fell and Germany was reunited, we got a sneak peek behind the iron curtain and found that communism had collapsed and the cold war was over—and we were the winners.

It was like going forward in your car for 45 years and suddenly throwing it into reverse. The world stage changed drastically. Many thought that NATO should be disbanded. Nations demanded money spent for defense be returned to the people for domestic programs. The world wanted a "peace dividend." And the United States was no different. And we began to reduce our military establishment—both in terms of personnel and installations.

New terms showed up in our vocabulary. Terms like BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure). Our overseas presence was tremendously reduced and we brought forces and equipment home.

And while many thought our job might be over, our missions actually began to increase. We found ourselves embroiled in "hot spots." We began doing humanitarian and disaster relief missions. Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia, Haiti and Bosnia came up on the scope. Bare base operations like Prince Sultan, El Jabber, Ali Asalem, Doha, Qatar, Baharain, Riyadh, San Vito and others. Places where Americans in uniform must deploy, live and fight. And we continue to deal with Saddam—a millstone around our neck. Our Air Force people alone began to deploy at 4 times the rate they did in the "blissful" '80s.

The '90s present a whole new set of challenges. More new terms like Op Tempo and Pers Tempo. We didn't get enough relief from the first round of BRAC—and we are spread too thin across too much real estate. That is why you hear us persistently ask Congress for more BRAC.

The drawdown meant the loss of skill levels in the ranks as we carved out the middle of the force. We have training shortfalls. We had to find a new way to deliver health care to 9 million eligibles—and Tricare popped up on the scope. We have aging weapons systems—we cannibalize parts from two weapon systems to get one functioning. We have a monotonous desert rotation—slipping readiness posture—outsourcing and privatization are being thrust upon us.

We deal with all of this against the backdrop of the Balanced Budget Amendment and a flatlined defense budget. It forces us to make tough decisions on whether to modernize, sustain readiness or improve quality of life.

For the Army and the Air Force—we must make the transformation to become more

expeditionary. Lighter and leaner—not reliant on forward based locations and assets. This presents a cultural change for our people who must change how they do business—and old habits die hard.

Add into all of this retention challenges presented by an overheating economy and low unemployment across the country. The private sector competes for our highly trained and highly disciplined technicians and lure them away with more pay and in many cases better compensation. There is plenty of money for young people to go to college and the propensity to serve has diminished. Recruiters are having a very difficult time making quotas while maintaining quality. There are frustrations with op tempo and pers tempo—the changed retirement system is seen as a breach of faith and Tricare has had some tough times with implementation.

For myself and my service counterparts, we have increased congressional contact on a variety of subjects like gender integrated training—trying to convince them each service knows how to train their people the right way. We've discussed fraternization rules, readiness and quality of life and their impact on our troops.

As General Mike Ryan, Air Force Chief of Staff says, "This is not my father's Air Force." And I would submit that this saying applies to all of our armed forces as they relate to the decade of the '90s.

This scenario has certainly produced its share of "prophets of doom and gloom." Newspapers have editorials from naysayers attacking senior leadership and publicly displaying their disgruntlement over current situations. Some among our own ranks would counsel our troops against making the military a career because "it isn't as good as it used to be." Whatever that means!

The reality is this—the armed forces still offer a great way of life for young Americans. We still offer tremendous opportunity—skills training—and we do it in an environment of equal opportunity. We still offer an exciting way of life. And this nation still needs patriotic Americans who are willing to sacrifice for their nation and win her wars.

As Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps Lee said in a meeting today, "it's time to accentuate the positive things about our armed forces and our special way of life—and stop listening to the negative."

The fact is, we have inherited a new world order. The world stage has changed—it's more complicated and our roles and missions have been modified. We must make adjustments—and we will—we will attack these challenges like we have always done in the past—with hard work and innovation!

I believe our future is extremely bright. Despite all our challenges, we still have a tremendous corps of young people who are nothing short of fantastic—they exceed all expectations. Their technical skills are something to marvel. When I entered the Air Force back in 1970, our top of the line equipment in the orderly room was the Underwood Five manual typewriter. Today, that same recruit is involved in LAN administration—with advanced computer skills—some even work in the Information Superiority Battle Lab at the Air Intelligence Agency in San Antonio. And as our troops become more and more technically qualified in a variety of skills—we'll have to be competitive if we want to secure their skills for the long run—that's just a fact of life.

And we need to help our young troops keep focus on the vision of our armed forces of the

future. We must instill in them enthusiasm and optimism. As General Colin Powell said, "Never take counsel of our fears or naysayers." He also said, "Optimism is a force multiplier."

We need to remind our troops that the military gave them all they ever needed to know to be successful during their indoctrination into the service at basic training. We taught them how to salute, dress for success, customs and courtesies. We taught them how to follow instructions and to be on time. We taught them how to work as a team through drill and ceremonies. We taught them to have dignity and respect for each other. We also taught them to have high personal standards and to demand high standards for their units. We also taught them followership.

As we become more expeditionary our roles and missions in joint operations will become increasingly intertwined. We must teach our troops the importance of "Strength in Unity" as it relates to the armed "armed forces" team.

We must make them aware of the importance of the legislative process and its impact on the military way of life—we aren't doing a very good job of that right now. As the congress shifts and becomes less attuned to the military and the mood of the country becomes more and more complacent about defense—we will continue to rely on the superb representation of organizations like the Noncommissioned Officers Association. They help preserve entitlements and benefits and work issues on our behalf. And they do a superb job at it.

We have so very much to be proud of. We wear the uniforms of the greatest armed forces in the world. We are members of an honorable profession—the profession of arms. We walk in the shadows of heroes—men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation. We need to remind ourselves of that once in awhile.

So, I would say to you here tonight—yes, we have challenges—but we will overcome them and return to level flight and steady seas.

And, we rely on "Strength in Unity"—a super motto for the NCOA because it captures the essence of who we are.

Thank you for having me here tonight—and a special congratulations to our Vanguard Award recipients—who represent the best of the best—and represent the thousands in uniform who serve our great nation around the globe. Good night and God Bless America.

BIOGRAPHY

Chief Master Sergeant Eric W. Benken entered the Air Force in March 1970. He became the 12th Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force in November 1996. His background is in information management, and he has served for more than 25 years in operational, maintenance and support units at every level of command from squadron through major air command. He served in maintenance administration in Taiwan and Vietnam, and served as executive noncommissioned officer to the commander in Korea. His stateside assignments include Bergstrom AFB, Texas, Eglin AFB, Florida, Ellington AFB, Texas, and Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. He also served in a joint service/NATO assignment at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Before becoming Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, he served as the senior enlisted advisor for the U.S. Air Force in Europe (USAFE) at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, a position he assumed in October 1994. While at USAFE, the command was involved

in operations such as Provide Promise, Provide Comfort, Deliberate Force and Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. Chief Master Sergeant Benken is committed to transitioning the enlisted corps into an Air Expeditionary Force and, in the process, helps shape what the Air Force will look like in the next century and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY LONDON

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Johnny London as he marks his Thirtieth Anniversary as the morning host on WICH in Norwich, Connecticut. Over the past three decades, Johnny has become an "institution" in Norwich through his show and, more importantly, his work on behalf of the community.

Johnny came to Norwich from Maine thirty years ago to take a job as the "morning man" at WICH. WICH is the major AM station serving Norwich and surrounding communities. Over the years, Johnny has developed a format which combines news, political commentary, history lessons, sports and discussion about community events. When it comes to politics, Johnny calls it like he sees it. He doesn't mince words and he isn't afraid to criticize someone in office or a proposal if he believes issues need to be raised. His show gives him an opportunity to highlight issues and question actions. However, in the very best tradition of American broadcasting, Johnny has never done so for personal aggrandizement. He has always acted in the public interest and been motivated by doing what is best for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Johnny London is much, much more than the host of a morning radio show. He is a tireless friend to countless organizations, charities and special events to whom he lends his time and support. Johnny's show has perhaps the most extensive "community calendar" of any in Connecticut. Moreover, he has supported hundreds of charitable functions over the years. To generate awareness about issues and raise funds to assist those in need, Johnny has gone into the boxing ring with Willie Pep and played basketball with teams from across the country and around the world.

To some, these actions might not sound uncommon—every radio personality does publicity stunts. But this is where Johnny is different. He is out there every day, every week and year after year working on behalf of the community. He is there when it's ninety-five degrees and in the blowing snow. He puts just as much into supporting events that attract ten people as those that draw thousands from across southeastern Connecticut. His remarkable generosity is more extraordinary than even the longest tenure on the airwaves.

Mr. Speaker, as Johnny marks his thirtieth anniversary with WICH, he has much to be proud of. His show is among the highest rated in Connecticut. Currently, he holds the record as the longest-serving, active morning radio broadcaster in our state. He is recognized as

one of the foremost historians of Norwich. More importantly, he is loved and respected by residents across eastern Connecticut for his tireless efforts on behalf of their communities over three decades. I join them in saying thank you. We look forward to tuning in for many years to come.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY DICKEY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to show my concern about a provision in the chairman's bill that allows an increase of \$18.5 million, for the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, or EEOC. I want to do so by drawing attention to a circumstance in Miami, Florida, that I think is worthy of the gentleman's attention and the attention of my colleagues. It has to do with Joe's Stone Crab in Miami Beach.

This is a well-known, world-renowned restaurant. It has been owned for 85 years by the same Jewish family. It has had diversity in its hiring practices long before it was required by law. However, it has been targeted and victimized by the EEOC, not because there are too few female employees. The owner is a female and 22 percent of the employees are female. The heads of the departments of the restaurant, Mr. Chairman, are females, but there are too few female servers, according to the EEOC.

This is in contrast to what is happening with Hooters restaurants. Hooters has only female servers. They are a chain. The EEOC has targeted this one restaurant.

The reign of terror of the EEOC against Joe's Stone Crab began on April 27, 1992. The charge was a failure to actively recruit female servers. This was done without a female filing a complaint, and it was done without complying with the law that 300 days prior to such a ruling, there had to be a complaint filed. There was no complaint filed. The EEOC started an investigation on its own.

On July 3, 1997, there was a ruling by Judge Daniel T. Hurley. In his findings, he said that Joe's Stone Crab was guilty; those were his words, even though it is a civil action, that they were guilty of hiring discrimination.

There was no finding of any intended discrimination, Mr. Chairman. Yet, the Court took it on itself at that point to take over the hiring practices of Joe's Stone Crab. They required that announcement of the roll call, which had been word of mouth, be publicized, and required Joe's to spend \$125,000 in ads in newspapers that the Court specified.

As a result, a fewer percentage of applicants of women was brought in. They hired more than the percentage of female applicants that came in, and again, no female complained at any time.

When confronted with the 22 percent female hiring that had occurred between 1991 and 1995, the Court then just changed the statistical reference. They took the total of the female food servers in Dade County, and that was 32 percent, so they just moved the target so the Court could do what it wanted to do.

The bottom line is that this restaurant has spent 6 years, over \$1 million; they have had bad publicity; they have had lower morale; they have had the Court come in and take over their operations and examine it from every angle. Then we are giving EEOC \$18.5 million in increase. I think EEOC must not have enough to do. If they claim there is a backlog, it is because they are spending time on such frivolous litigation. They should be examined very carefully.

Small businesses all across the country are being victimized by the EEOC. They are at the point where they cannot complain because they think retaliation will come. Joe's Stone Crab is a story of one owner saying, I will take on the government for the sake of small businesses. This restaurant is fighting the battle for small business all across the country.

My last comment, Mr. Chairman, is that I urge, as this bill moves forward and in the years to come, that the chairman address the issue of frivolous litigation and damages that the EEOC brings upon the small businesses in America.

JOHN SEIBERLING— ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues that yesterday, September 8, was the 80th birthday of our former colleague and a good friend, John F. Seiberling.

John Seiberling was first elected to Congress in 1970, having already spent 25 years as a member of the military serving in World War II and as an attorney in private practice with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., which his grandfather founded. After 16 years of Congressional Service, John retired voluntarily in 1986 with a lifetime of outstanding accomplishments.

Originally inspired to run for Congress by his opposition to the U.S. involvement in Viet Nam, John Seiberling quickly rose as a leader in the House efforts to end the war. Concerned about our defense and foreign policies, John was also a leader in the Congressional organization, Members of Congress for Peace through Law, known later as the Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

In the House, John Seiberling served on the Committee on the Judiciary. An active member, John participated in the Watergate hearings and was the floor manager for the historic House passage of the antitrust law rewrite, the Scott-Hart-Rodino Antitrust Act.

However, John was best known for his commitment to the environment and for his many accomplishments as a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Today, this Committee is the House Resources Committee. As a member of that Committee, John was a very special Member who stood very tall. I had the privilege to serve with John for ten years and to learn from him. John played a major role in securing the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This important law has reversed the damage caused by surface coal mining. John was also largely responsible for the enactment of the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area Act. This law created Ohio's first national park.

Alaska and the preservation of the unique national treasures of that state were at once a passion and an inspiration for John Seiberling. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands in 1977, John Seiberling was a leader in speaking out, fighting and shaping the comprehensive law and policy that finally preserved this last bit of wilderness for all America. While the fight took six long years and much of John's time, it was a labor of love. John Seiberling and Mo Udall were eventually successful in passing Alaska lands legislation which doubled the size of our National Park System and quadrupled our national wilderness system.

John's commitment to the environment continues today in his role as the Director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, of which he was a founder.

I am certain that my colleagues will join me in saluting John Seiberling's accomplishments and wishing him a very happy birthday—a well deserved 80th year. John has shaped our landscape and environmental policies well into the future. Our best wishes for many more years of life and celebration of his work, the legacy and American heritage for generations yet unborn. Happy Birthday to the environment's best friend, John Seiberling.

THE AGING OF AMERICA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 12, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE AGING OF AMERICA

America is getting older. As Americans are living longer than ever before and as the Baby Boomers ease into their senior years, fundamental shifts will occur in our society. In areas such as health care, housing, and recreation, the impact of an aging population will be felt. The costs of providing these services will put a strain on the financial resources of governments and families alike.

The importance of Social Security and other federal programs for older Americans is emphasized by the fact that financial prospects for many Americans approaching retirement are grim. According to a recent comprehensive study: 40% have no pension

income other than Social Security. One in five households has no assets and one in seven persons has no health insurance. 20% are disabled.

The cost of supporting older persons will be a heavy burden on the living standards of younger workers. By the year 2030 one in five Americans is projected to be 65 or older, up from one in eight today. And the proportion of the oldest Americans, those over 75, whose health care costs are especially high, will nearly double from present levels. This too will have a huge impact on government budgets and workers' incomes.

An aging America raises major social and political questions. Is it fair to place huge tax burdens on workers to pay for the retirees? Will the projected heavy spending on programs for older people crowd out other important government spending like national defense or law enforcement? Will high taxes be necessary and, if they are, will they depress economic growth?

Given these facts many of the pundits are predicting warfare between the generations, between the young and the old. Yet I am doubtful of that. In my experience young people are just as concerned about protecting Medicare and Social Security as their parents are. My own view is that the bond between the generations is strong, and that should not surprise us given the strong family ties that still exist for the most part in this country. I think young people want older people to be secure and to have quality health care, and they don't want them to be dependent on them.

CHALLENGES OF AN AGING AMERICA

Everybody acknowledges the difficulty of ensuring the long-term stability of Social Security and Medicare. We simply cannot afford the contract we now have on the table as the Baby Boom generation approaches retirement. We will have a smaller number of workers supporting a much larger number of retirees, and something will have to give. So it represents a formidable challenge to our system of government to carry Americans— young and old—through the major changes needed in these programs.

The trend in America has been to retire earlier and earlier, and that has placed an extra burden on federal programs. In the last century more than 75% of men 65 years and over worked. In 1997 only 17% did. But things are beginning to change. Retirement ages are creeping back up and the whole concept of retirement is changing. Among other things, older people are increasingly leaving the work force gradually, taking temporary and part-time jobs.

Older people require more expensive social services—particularly health care—and they depend upon government programs like Social Security for much of their income. The importance of Social Security to older Americans cannot be over-estimated. Almost 92% of those 65 and older receive Social Security benefits and many would live in poverty if it did not exist. Moreover, as the number of the oldest Americans grows, the use of medical and long term care services such as hospitals, home care, nursing homes, and elder day care will increase sharply. The effect on Medicare and Medicaid will be significant. Today these programs provide insurance for health and long-term care for 97% of the elderly.

POLITICAL CHALLENGES

One has to wonder whether a democratic government is going to be able to deal with these challenges, particularly if it involves reducing benefits for an increasingly large

and powerful group. Most analysts view bringing future benefits under control as necessary, yet older persons do not want their benefits cut. One alternative is raising taxes but that means that the current Social Security tax rate would have to be boosted sharply to provide the benefits that have been promised. Others suggest that we should adopt policies directing benefits to low-income elderly persons, and that would reduce costs and improve economic efficiency by getting the money to those who need it most. But to shift in the direction of either a tax increase or a benefit reduction causes a loss of popular support of many people. The challenge to the country may be to make the long-term investments in education, infrastructure, and basic research that lead to growth in the economy and new business opportunities, which in turn makes it easier for the economy to absorb the costs of programs for older Americans. The problem is how that long-term investment, much of which is directed toward younger people, is going to happen when the largest and most powerful group will be older people.

I think it will be necessary for public officials to talk a lot more about how the satisfaction of building a better tomorrow outweighs the immediate appeal of greater and richer benefits. My personal experience is that older people are very receptive to that argument. The conventional view is that older people, as they wield ever greater power within our system of government, will lend their support to policies that serve their interests: higher spending on health, social services, and law and order, with spending on education taking a back seat. If this is the approach then that could spell trouble between generations. But I do not buy the view that we are headed in this country for intergenerational warfare. Most older people have children and they want the very best for those children, and that causes them to pursue their own interests less selfishly. Younger people want their parents to be adequately supported and everyone knows full well that they themselves will get older. They expect the next generation to help look after them in turn.

CONCLUSION

The aging of America will have a profound effect on our country. Rather than focus on the potential for intergenerational conflict, we need to see what can be done now to address the crunch we all know is coming. Steps should be taken soon to shore up both the Medicare/Medicaid and Social Security systems. In addition, each American needs to plan financially for their own later years. Proper planning and thought, on the part of the individual and of the government, will go a long way in helping the nation deal with these issues of an aging America.

CONGRATULATING THE HOUSTON COMETS, WNBA CHAMPIONS

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Houston Comets of the WNBA on their second consecutive WNBA championship. The women of the Houston Comets and the WNBA have brought a new respectability to professional sports—something that has at times been lacking in some

of the male-dominated professional sports in recent years. These women, many of them working moms, are truly role models to young women across the United States.

At a time when our young people desperately need role models, these women have stepped up to the plate. The teams have dedicated themselves to community service and feel a real responsibility to their community and to their fans. Team members have done public service announcements to promote breast cancer awareness; they have volunteered their time to work with homeless children; and they have volunteered in soup kitchens to feed the homeless. In short they have given as much to their communities as they have received.

Another important result of the remarkable success of the WNBA has been its impact on women's sports in our high schools and colleges. It is a realization of the importance of Title IX programs. Today, a record 2.5 million girls compete on high school teams, compared with 300,000 in the early 1970s. The success of professional women's sports should help continue this trend as our daughters are able to watch role models like Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes, and Tina Thompson.

So again, Mr. Speaker, my congratulations to WNBA Coach of the Year Van Chancellor, League MVP and first team All-WNBA Cynthia Cooper, first team All-WNBA players Sheryl Swoopes and Tina Thompson, and the rest of the Houston Comets on their outstanding season and my thanks to them for providing our communities with such a positive image of professional athletes.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4380) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment by the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Some who oppose this amendment will express their concern about the unwarranted intrusion this amendment represents into the lives of children and their families in the District of Columbia.

Others will address the impact of this amendment on the principle of local control, and wonder what in the world the Congress of the United States is doing meddling with local adoption rules.

I share both of those concerns, Mr. Chairman. But tonight I wish to speak as an adoptive parent, who is concerned first and foremost about the well-being of unwanted children.

Mr. Chairman, it is a sad fact that not all parents are fit parents. Child abuse and neglect occurs in all kinds of families. Among "birth families" no less than adoptive families. Among so-called "traditional two-parent families" no less than families of less conventional description.

Most of us do our best to love and nurture our children, but no parent is perfect. And we all make mistakes.

But I also know that good parents and families come in all shapes and sizes, too. Some of the most loving, nurturing and supportive families would fail Mr. LARGENT's litmus test.

And that would be a tremendous loss for the half a million children now in foster care who would be deprived of the chance to grow up in that kind of environment.

There are too many kids out there who need decent homes for us to start deciding which characteristics to require of adoptive parents. Some who value a religious upbringing might want to disqualify prospective parents who are not religious. Others might want to disqualify people who are. Some might feel that only people with a certain level of income, or education, are entitled to adopt. And so forth.

But such considerations are really beside the point when it comes to adoption. The only test we ought to apply is the test the law already uses to determine whether a child belongs in a particular family situation or not. That test is whether the situation is in the "best interests" of the child.

The application of that test is a complex matter. It requires the careful weighing of a multitude of factors by those with the requisite experience and expertise. One thing we can be sure of is that the Congress of the United States is not the agency that is best equipped to do that evaluation.

Another thing I'm sure of, Mr. Chairman, is that it is not in the best interests of a child to be in an institution or on the street when he or she could grow up in a stable, loving household.

We should ask whether the parents have the means to feed and clothe the child and see to its education. We should ask whether they maintain a home that will offer the child a harmonious, stable and nurturing environment. We should ask whether they have the skills and the commitment it takes to be a good parent.

When we find a family that offers all this to a child in need, what kind of society would reject that family because the parents are "not related by blood or marriage?"

I believe we should embrace that family, Mr. Chairman, and be thankful that a lost child has been given a new home and a second chance in life.

CLIFFORD MELBERGER HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Mr. Clifford Melberger of my District in Pennsylvania. Cliff

has been named "Community Leader of the Year" by the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in honoring him.

Deborah D. Hannon, Chairperson of the Foundation's Board of Directors, describes this prestigious award as "an award that is given throughout each chapter area to a person who epitomizes the word 'leader' in both his personal and professional life." Cliff Melberger is certainly a fine example of this criteria. He is the founder and CEO of Diversified Information Technologies, Inc., a national information management and document imaging company. Cliff has been an innovator in the use of computer systems to service the information management industry. He received two research grants from Pennsylvania's Ben Franklin Partnership to develop electronic vaulting, which is the transmission of computerized media via satellite or Telecommunications.

For the last 16 years, Clifford Melberger has defined Diversified's migration from a traditional records storage and retrieval company to a state-of-the-art information management company, providing Fortune 500 companies with access to their corporate records via multiple media platforms.

Mr. Speaker, Cliff Melberger began his career in banking after receiving his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Bucknell University. He served as president of the University's Alumni Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the JPM Corporation, the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University. He is an Elder in his church. He and his wife Ruth are parents of two grown children and have two grandchildren.

It is with great pleasure that I join with the Arthritis Foundation in honoring this distinguished businessman and community leader, Mr. Clifford Melberger. I send him and his family my sincere congratulations on this honor and best wishes for continued success and prosperity.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF WILLIAM A. TUCKER

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to William A. Tucker, my good friend and long-term community leader in the Third Congressional District of Virginia.

Mr. Tucker was born on September 15, 1928 in Greenville, North Carolina and moved to the Hampton Roads area in 1962. Since that time, he has amassed a commendable record of community leadership based on a practice of leading by example. It began with the example he set as a dedicated family man, who, along with his wife Helen Hembly Tucker, raised five children who have given them three grandchildren.

Mr. Tucker served in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 to 1974. After leaving active duty in the military, he became involved in a number of community activities. He began work as a

Longshoreman and was ultimately elected President of Newport News Local 846 of the International Longshoreman's Association. While in his position with Local 846, he also became involved in other community and civic organizations. He became a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Tucker went on to hold membership in and serve on the Executive Board of the Hampton Democratic Party, the Virginia State Board of Corrections Education Subcommittee, the City of Hampton Charter Review Commission, the City of Hampton Citizen's Unity Commission, the Committee for the Beautification of the City of Hampton, and the Board of Hampton Roads Boys and Girls Club.

So, it is with honor that I call attention to the contributions of William A. Tucker before the Congress and the nation and I ask that these remarks be made a part of the permanent records of this body.

IN OPPOSITION TO HATE RALLIES

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are all well aware from media reports of the unfortunate incident in New York City this past Saturday, in which fifteen police officers and one civilian were injured at the conclusion of what Mayor Rudolph Giuliani accurately predicted would be a hate rally. I wish to remind our colleagues that this untoward incident underscores the hard lesson which the world learned in the 1930s and 1940s: hatred and incitement to riot against any people, if unchallenged, will lead to greater and greater tragedy.

Khalid Abdul Muhammad first rose to prominence in 1993 when, at a well publicized speech at Kean College, at which he hurled racial insults at Jews, Roman Catholics, and mainstream Afro-American civil rights leaders. In subsequent orations, he attacked His Holiness Pope John Paul II and even South African President Nelson Mandela.

In 1994, after a speech in which he referred to Jews as "bloodsuckers", condemned gays, and again attacked His Holiness the Pope, who he called "a no-good cracker," the Rev. Louis Farrakhan demanded, and received, Khalid Muhammad's resignation from the Nation of Islam.

It is no wonder that Mayor Giuliani, contending that the proposed "million youth march" would be what he called a "hate march," initially refused to allow a permit to be granted to the organizers. That decision was overturned by a higher court decision.

It is no wonder then that the New York City Police Department, fearing in incitement to riot, arranged for 3,000 uniformed police to be on hand to keep order. The 50,000 attendance which Muhammad and his followers had predicted turned out to be only 6,000, thus underscoring the limited appeal that the racist sentiments expressed by Muhammad have in the community.

The rally itself proved to be an incitement to riot. Malik Zulu Shabazz, a rally organizer and one of its attorneys, characterized opponents of the march as "Uncle Tom, boot-licking, buck-dancing politicians" who must be voted out of office. Other speakers lashed out at Jews, whites, and Afro-American opponents of the march. According to reports from Mayor Giuliani's office, others called for death to Jews and to police officers.

Muhammad himself withheld his own speech until near 4 o'clock, the time the court had imposed for the end of the rally. In his remarks, Muhammad urged the crowd to defend themselves by taking the police guns away from the officers. "And if you don't have a gun, every one of them [police] has one gun, two guns, maybe three guns. If they attack you take their goddamn guns and use them," he cried. He urged youths to take apart police barricades and "beat the hell out of [police] with the railings. You take their night sticks and ram them up their behinds."

Despite this blatant invitation to riot, and despite the police being assaulted by having chairs and debris hurled at them, the police acted with notable restraint. In the resultant melee, only one civilian was injured—as opposed to 15 police officers.

New York State Senator David Paterson, a highly-regarded Afro-American legislator, stated that Muhammad should be arrested for exhorting young people to violence.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, head of the Black Leadership Forum, which includes most of our nation's leading civil rights groups, stated: "I think Muhammad is a lunatic and has a mental problem. I don't know anybody who has been left out of his vitriolic sweep."

Mr. Speaker, no one in America denies the First Amendment or our Bill of rights guaranteeing free speech. But we must never forget the admonition of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes who stated that the right of free speech does not allow any individual to cry "fire!" in a crowded theater.

We especially must not forget the horrible fruits which resulted when the hateful, racist propaganda of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi goons went unchallenged for too many years not too long ago.

The brand of racist hatred spewed by Khalid Abdul Muhammad and his followers not only incite violence, causing harm to countless innocent persons, it also proves to be divisive, counterproductive, playing into the hands of the racists of the other side who seek to thwart those who work towards a true reconciliation of the races.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in condemning this vicious manifestation of hate and prejudice and to pledge to work towards the eradication of all such manifestations of injustice in our nation and throughout the world.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 5, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Chairman, one of the greatest powers wielded by every American today is the power to choose how we spend our money. In the American marketplace—the strongest economy in the world—the manner in which we make our purchasing decisions is a vote. It's a vote of confidence in a product and a vote of support for the way a company treats its employees, services its customers, or protects the environment.

That's not a power to be taken lightly. It reminds corporations that we, as consumers, have a choice. We can reward them for good conduct, or punish them by purchasing from their competitors.

The problem is that so-called "free trade" agreements take away that choice. Not only do they take it away from you and me, but they take it away from our states, counties, and cities. And although the opponents of this amendment claim that it challenges the balance of power established by the Constitution, all that the amendment strives to do is re-establish the power to choose how we spend our money.

In 1996, the Massachusetts state legislature overwhelmingly endorsed a law prohibiting the state from doing any procurement business with companies that invest in Burma, whose abominable human rights record we are all familiar with. The taxpayers of Massachusetts made it clear that they wanted their elected representatives to use taxpayer dollars to support corporations for whom human dignity meant more than an extra tenth of a percent on this quarter's earnings.

In doing so, Massachusetts became the first state to enact such a law, joining dozens of counties, towns and cities nationwide where doing business with repressive governments is simply not acceptable. As a result, major firms—including Apple Computer, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola—have severed their ties to Burma.

While the people of Massachusetts broadly support the action taken by their state, the European Union and Japan have filed a World Trade Organization challenge against Massachusetts. The Administration—which promised us, and continues to promise us, that trade agreements do not undermine states' rights—has been quietly pressuring Massachusetts legislators to repeal the law.

A coalition of 600 of the largest multinational corporations, for whom profits mean far more than human rights, has filed suit against Massachusetts. These are the same corporations

who have fought all efforts to keep consumers informed about the effects of their purchases by opposing even the simplest requirements to label fresh produce with its country of origin, or to establish labels ensuring customers that products were made without child or sweatshop labor. The claim that the Massachusetts law, and others like it, are unconstitutional.

Since when is the right of consumers to choose how to spend their money unconstitutional? Since NAFTA? Since GATT?

Like many of my colleagues, I would prefer to act on these issues by repealing and renegotiating trade agreements to ensure that human rights, workers, and the environment are protected to the same extent as intellectual property rights and corporate profits. I would prefer to see the impacts of these agreements on states' rights and consumer's rights clearly defined before we commit ourselves. But we all know that's not going to happen. This amendment is a very small step in that direction.

We owe it to the people of Massachusetts, San Francisco, New York City, Ann Arbor, Palo Alto, Chapel Hill, and dozens of other American towns with similar laws, to uphold their rights as consumers and their belief in "what is good" over "what is profitable." I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

**H.R. 4523, THE LORTON TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998**

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 'Lorton Technical Corrections Act of 1998.' This important legislation, cosponsored by Congressman JIM MORAN and Congressman FRANK WOLF, will serve to put a mechanism in place to deal with the future of the lands associated with the Lorton Correctional Complex in Lorton, Virginia.

In early 1997, the Congress and the Administration agreed to work cooperatively, in good faith, to restructure the Federal relationship with the District of Columbia. The municipal affairs of the Nation's Capital, for Constitutional and historic reasons reflecting fundamental national policy, are part of the most complex local governmental structure in the United States. In this Congress, I introduced the 'National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997' which was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support as a part of 'The Balanced Budget Act of 1997.' With the support and hard work of Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and the delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia, this legislation included the mandated closure of the Lorton Prison by the end of the year 2001. Under the law, DC correctional functions will be assumed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and DC inmates will be housed at other facilities outside of northern Virginia.

Current law would also transfer control of the Lorton parcel to the U.S. Department of Interior after 2001. At the time of enactment of

this law, after considering various options, my colleague JIM MORAN and I concluded that the Interior Department was the best Federal agency to maintain the integrity of the parcel and to meet my intention that the area be preserved as open space to the maximum extent possible. While recognizing the importance of reserving the authority of members of the community to assist in the ultimate determination of future uses of the property, I have always been concerned about maintaining significant open space in the parcel and avoiding damage to ecologically sensitive areas. I also believe that we must ensure that the I-96 corridor is not burdened by further traffic congestion in the Lorton area.

However, subsequent to the enactment of the closing of Lorton Prison it has become clear that the Department of the Interior is not the agency best suited to handle the future disposition of the Lorton parcel. Therefore, it has become incumbent upon the Virginia delegation to once again work to establish a Federal mechanism that will properly address the future of the land.

This bill introduced today will create such a mechanism. This legislation is the result of many hours of hard work and negotiation between Congressman MORAN, Congressman, WOLF, Senators WARNER and ROBB, the General Services Administration (GSA), the Departments of Interior and Justice, the Office of Management and Budget, and myself. Under the bill 1) the GSA will assume control of the land; 2) the County of Fairfax will submit an official reuse plan to the GSA delineating preferred permissible or required uses of the land; and 3) the Department of Interior will have the ability to reserve a portion of the land if desired to enhance U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service properties within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Most importantly, this legislation will allow for the continuance and expansion of park and recreation uses on the parcel. The County of Fairfax, working with GSA, will have the utmost flexibility to preserve the rural character of the land; expand parkland and recreational amenities to better serve the region, and guarantee that all projects on the land do not further burden the I-95 corridor and do serve to enhance the quality of life of Virginia residents.

I look forward to working with Congressman MORAN, Congressman WOLF, Congresswoman NORTON and Senators WARNER and ROBB to achieve quick consideration and passage of this important legislation.

**"LORTON TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1998"**

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues Mr. DAVIS and Mr. WOLF to introduce the "Lorton Technical Corrections Act of 1998."

As the title implies, this legislation is necessary to correct a few technical issues that have arisen since Congress enacted the "Na-

tional Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997." One provision in the 1997 law of great interest to the residents of south Fairfax was the closing of Lorton Prison and the transfer of the federal reservation to the Department of the Interior.

I believe the General Services Administration is in a better position to fulfill the 1997 Act's expressed intent of transferring much of the property back to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The General Services Administration retains both the legal authority to administer a transfer and the expertise to coordinate with Fairfax County, other federal agencies and local governments the property's ultimate disposition and use. The General Services Administration also has the capability to see that the property is properly cleaned of any environmental hazards.

The legislation I am introducing today transfers ownership of the property from the Department of the Interior to the General Services Administration. To ensure that future land use is consistent with the wishes of the local residents and the local government, the legislation requires Fairfax County to develop and submit a reuse plan within one year of enactment. The Department of the Interior may, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, exchange surplus land for property that benefits the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Fish and Wildlife Service, for example, has expressed interest in acquiring some portion of the Meadowood property that would be exchanged for land adjacent the Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge that is now held by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

While much of the Lorton Property would be reserved for green space and parkland, some portions, particularly those tracks adjacent to the I-95 corridor, could be developed, if such development is called for under Fairfax County's reuse plan. The legislation also establishes a special fund. Proceeds from any land sale for development would be used to cover the cost incurred by the General Services Administration to administer and dispose of the property and finance any environmental clean-up at the Lorton Correctional Complex.

With the enactment of the "National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997," several competing visions have arisen on the appropriate reuse of this property. By granting the General Services Administration the lead federal role, but ultimately relying on Fairfax County, through the public hearing process, to determine its appropriate reuse, the "Lorton Technical Corrections Act of 1998" should help bring the successful resolution and closure to the Lorton property.

**AUTHORIZING THE GSA TO DIS-
POSE OF THE LORTON CORREC-
TIONAL COMPLEX IN VIRGINIA,
H.R. 4523**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my Virginia colleagues TOM DAVIS and JIM

MORAN in sponsoring important legislation which will allow the General Services Administration (GSA) to dispose of the Lorton Correctional Complex in Virginia.

Last month Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore announced that the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia had agreed to finally close Lorton and relocate the remaining prisoners to privately run facilities around the state. This, Mr. Speaker, is good news for Virginia and the remaining occupants of the prison.

Mr. Speaker, over the years conditions at Lorton have gone from bad to worse. With chronic overcrowding, inmate idleness, widespread drug use, inadequate education and training programs and increasing violence, Lorton has become a "finishing school" for criminals. The situation has grown so bad, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has agents inside the prison to investigate only the crimes taking place within the prison.

With the closure of Lorton, inmates will be distributed to sites around the state that offer more opportunities such as training and education. An inmate who gains a skill or learns a trade is better prepared to live a life without crime upon his or her release. Recidivism, a major problem at Lorton, will hopefully drop.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the neighbors of Lorton will no longer have to sit up nights worrying about escapes. Instead, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has unanimously agreed upon a plan that provides for a recreational use on most of the property. This bill establishes the framework by which the process will be undertaken. I lend it my support and urge the House's approval.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,
JUSTICE, AND STATE, AND JUDICIARY,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4276) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment by Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE to increase funding for the Community Relations Service (CRS).

At a time when our nation continues to see the damaging effects of racial tensions, gang violence and hate crimes, the demand for skilled professionals trained in conflict mediation has reached a new height. We must acknowledge the services this division of the Department of Justice has brought to mayors, chiefs of police, school superintendents and concerned citizens of the community. In my home City of Los Angeles, the Community Relations Service played a vital role in resolving the week-long turmoil of the LA riots in the Spring of 1992. The recent events in Jasper,

Texas proved another opportunity to employ these trained professionals to resolve conflict and prevent further tensions from rising. Without their interventions, the unresolved tensions of these conflicts will fester and could continue indefinitely, breeding further hate and violence.

I believe all of my colleagues here can agree that our efforts to alleviate violence in schools and communities is not something we should choose to ignore. This is not an example of a duplicated Federally funded program. This is the only Federal agency working to provide this type of assistance in times of need and attempt to prevent further outbreaks of violence and hate crimes. The demand for these services is growing and the Community Relations Service has proven itself successful in what has been deemed the most efficient and desirable approach to conflict resolution. Yet, at the current funding level CRS is unable to meet the demand for such services. Last year, the CRS was forced to decline 40 percent of all the requests for assistance that they received.

We hear members on the other side of the aisle speaking of a more efficient government. The CRS is an example of not only an efficient agency, but one that is cost effective. We can choose to help resolve conflict or we can pay the price of the crimes and convictions that will inevitably follow. I say we must meet the need for this demand and fully fund the CRS.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Jackson-LEE amendment.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF MIDDLE-
TOWN, NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to call the attention of my colleagues to the 150th anniversary of the Grace Episcopal Church of Middletown, NY.

For one hundred and fifty years the Wardens, Vestry and Parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church have served the community of Middletown, bringing neighbors, friends and the community as a whole together. The church has been instrumental in the development of Middletown, helping to educate and fill the spiritual needs of residents and families throughout the region.

The Grace Episcopal Church is a truly remarkable organization, built in 1847 and consecrated in 1848 by Bishop William Heathcote DeLancey of Western New York. However, it was Elisha Wheeler, who came to Middletown as a result of the Erie Railroad, who was largely responsible for creating Grace Episcopal Church. He was a signer of the Act of Incorporation, the first Junior Warden, then Senior Warden for the rest of his life.

In 1845, after much deliberation, land was purchased to erect a church on North Street, its current location. It is now the second oldest church building still in use in Middletown. The first church service was held on Christmas Eve, 1847.

Grace Church strives to be involved in the life of the community and social outreach, as well as trying to increase and strengthen its inreach to the members of the parish. The diversity of the members of this parish is a source of pride to its members and is one of the reasons that people of varying backgrounds can feel welcome there.

Beyond its normal parish duties, the church provides a soup kitchen, a RENT (Relief from Eviction for Needy Tenants) program, and A Place of Grace, Inc., which was formed to help those living with HIV/AIDS. These are only a few of the programs which has made the Grace Episcopal Church an active part of Middletown's community.

Mr. Speaker, I join our community in extending my congratulations to the church councils, and its congregation for the 150th anniversary of their reputable and noteworthy church. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the great contributions of the Grace Episcopal Church in Middletown, NY.

RETIREMENT OF JUDGE FRANK
ARNOLD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Frank Arnold. Judge Arnold has served as county judge in Sharp County, Arkansas and will retire this year after two decades.

Judge Arnold is a unique individual who I have had the opportunity to get to know over the last 10 years. He is a wonderful man who would give you the shirt off his back if you asked him to. Judge Arnold is one of those pillars of the community that works hard every day, plays by the rules and does whatever is necessary to make the community successful. He has been a loyal friend and support of me and is a true politician's politician. Judge Arnold has also been a tireless advocate of seniors, education, children, and industrial development in Arkansas. When you come to the Sharp County line, the roads are wider and smoother, the people are happier and life is better because of Frank Arnold.

Judge Arnold is one of those people who never goes back on his word. He has many loyal followers in Sharp County and I know he will be missed as a wonderful public servant. On September 19, Judge Arnold will be joined by family, friends, and community members in honoring him and thanking him for the many contributions he has made to the community and I am sure will continue to make. Judge Arnold, I wish you the best. I am proud to call you my friend.

19822

TRIBUTE TO MOM'S HOUSE IN
JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to be able to take this opportunity before my Colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to a very special organization in the district I represent. Mom's House, located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 15th anniversary. I'd like to tell you about this extraordinary organization, founded by an exceptional person who is a longtime friend as well, Peg Luksik.

Mom's House was founded in 1983 to offer young women with unplanned pregnancies an alternative to abortion and welfare. The program was the first of its kind in the Nation and has served as a national model of private and public sector cooperation in assisting young, single parents.

It is a non-denominational, non-profit, licensed day care center that provides quality care and educational programs to preschool children as well as supportive services to their parents, allowing them to complete their education.

The way the program works is the parents sign a contract to be full-time students, keep up their grades, attend parenting classes and volunteer three hours a week at the center.

In addition, the Mom's House Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1987 to help single parents pay for the increasing costs of tuition while pursuing their education. Two scholarship awards were given in the first year of the program, and twelve awards were given in 1998.

The program has since expanded to other locations in Pennsylvania as well as three other states, with the Johnstown facility serving as the national headquarters.

Staffing needs are met through cooperation with community agencies such as the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired Senior Volunteers, United Way and local colleges, universities and churches. In May of 1992, Mom's House was awarded the 768th "Daily Point of Light" by President George Bush for its "generosity and willingness to serve others."

To date, Mom's House has helped over 2,500 single parents and cared for their children, enabling these families to have a brighter and happier future.

This is the kind of caring, community-based effort that our country needs many more of. I applaud all the people at Mom's House and congratulate them on 15 years of outstanding community service and thank them for the priceless gift they give to these families.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CODIFICATION OF RECENT LAWS
TO BE INCLUDED IN TITLE 36,
UNITED STATES CODE, PATRIOTIC
AND NATIONAL OBSERVANCES,
CEREMONIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to codify in title 36, United States Code, recent laws related to patriotic and national observances, ceremonies, and organizations not included in title 36 and to make other technical and conforming amendments to the Code. This bill was prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives under its statutory mandate (2 U.S.C. 285b) to prepare and submit periodically revisions of positive law titles of the code to keep those titles current.

This bill makes no change in the substance of existing law.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the bill and a section-by-section summary—containing reviser's notes—of the bill should contact John R. Miller, Law Revision Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives, H2-304 Ford House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515-6711. The telephone number is (202) 226-2411.

HONORING MR. OSCAR D. CANAS
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY COMMUNITY

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with respect and admiration for a man of great fortitude and commitment to his community. As a resident of Louisville, Kentucky, Oscar Canas has blessed the city and the surrounding area with his good will and determination to provide health services to those who need it most—those who are unable to afford health services. Oscar has made the Family Health Centers in Louisville, and the 40,000 patients which have been served, his second family.

Starting from humble beginnings, Oscar and his wife Hilda came to the United States in 1962 shortly after Cuba was consumed by Castro and his militants. Leaving their country with no money and only the clothes on their backs, Mr. Canas and his wife came to Louisville to make a new home—and we are so glad that they did. Five years later, Oscar and his wife became proud citizens of the United States. At the same time he was trying to master the English language, Oscar Canas attended school and held full time employment. In 1972 he received a Master's Degree from the University of Louisville and four years later established the Family Health Centers, a network of community health centers to meet the needs of the underserved.

September 9, 1998

Family Health Centers has five locations to meet the needs of residents in Louisville. I believe Oscar's hard work and dedication to providing health care to underserved is a constant reminder to the local community and to Congress that these services are truly essential. Since I have come to know him, Mr. Canas has been forthright with his concerns about health care policy and he has been an asset to me in providing pertinent local information relevant to federal decision-making. I consider him a colleague and a friend.

Louisville is sad to see a member of our community move away, and I share the sorrow as Oscar make plans for retirement. Always thinking of family, Oscar is leaving his Family Health Centers family to be with his own in Florida. While he may not stay in Louisville forever, his legacy will. I wish him the very best and hope he will always think of Louisville as his home.

TRIBUTE TO K&L ENTERPRISES,
INC.

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, there is a unique restaurant story in my 1st Congressional District of Michigan. At the heart of the story is the great American fast food, the hamburger. What makes this story unique, however, are the side orders and the condiments: family and faith, enterprise and a determination to overcome economic adversity, the rewards of hard work, and a 30-year history of partnership and cooperation that have made friendships firm and fast.

Now that's a meal we'd like to serve up billions of times all over the world.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, K&L Enterprises Inc. celebrates this special combo with a gala gathering in Marquette. The guests will have an opportunity to study the menu for success that has spawned eight Hardee's Restaurants and 14 Subway Restaurants in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

These businesses generate a total annual payroll of \$3.5 million and provide work for 500 employees, 50 of them full time.

The K of K&L is Harry Krebs, who 30 years ago sold his car and, as he says, whatever else he could sell that made sense, to get the funds to buy his first Burger Chef in Escanaba.

The L of K&L is Bill LaVallie, who drove up from Milwaukee, Wis., to see how his sister and her husband Harry were doing with their business.

"It was crazy from the start," Bill recalls. "They were working 15 hours a day, seven days a week, not worrying about inventory, just pumping out those burgers."

When Harry told Bill there was an opportunity to open a Burger Chef in Marquette, Bill didn't hesitate. Despite a snowstorm that seemed to continue from December 1968 through the 1st of March, 1969, the Marquette restaurant continued in business, and the partnership of Krebs and LaVallie was born.

Bill's brother Terry was in charge of the opening of the Ironwood Burger Chef in 1975,

working his way toward ownership and a role as part of the corporate triumvirate.

The company weathered the sometimes painful but ultimately positive conversion of Burger Chef Systems to Hardee's Food Systems. With the inclusion of the Subway franchise, the company's growth in 1989 was a remarkable five new restaurants.

Mr. Speaker, the story of K&L is mirrored across the nation in the growth of food franchises. What is remarkable is the way these partners and extended family members have expressed their esteem for one another and their appreciation for their success.

Listen to the partners on the occasion of their 25th anniversary.

"Uncle Harry" Krebs says, "The Lord gave Sandy and I this business—we thank Him for that and for the trust and confidence in K&L."

"Burger Bill" LaVallie says, "I have partners whose honesty, integrity and dedication has never been questioned."

People are also the key ingredient for Terry LaVallie. "K&L has been blessed with terrific employees over the years, and that in large part is the reason for our success," he says.

From the kitchens of Sandy and Harry Krebs, Bill and Carol LaVallie, and Terry and Jeanine LaVallie, those are recipes for success that everyone can appreciate.

FIFTH ANNUAL GOLD KEY AWARDS DINNER OF THE LOS ANGELES OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Fifth Annual Gold Key Awards Dinner of the Los Angeles Opportunities Industrialization Center (LAOIC) and pay tribute to this year's honorees. We often hear people talk about the need to provide job training for those who are unskilled or whose skills have become obsolete. For the past five years, the LAOIC has been doing just that.

Under the progressive leadership of Board Chairman Wally Fassler and President/CEO Bishop Leon Ralph, LAOIC prepares its students to be competitive in job markets with a future—automotive, computer and sales. LAOIC has been on a mission, and it has succeeded over and over. Since 1993, it has graduated nearly 600 students and boasts an outstanding job placement rate.

Job training is only part of the story. LAOIC also includes life skills lessons. It helps its students become stakeholders in their communities with a positive outlook for the future.

On October 7, 1998, LAOIC will host its Fifth Annual Gold Key Awards Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. In addition to raising much needed funds for its programs, LAOIC will honor several remarkable individuals who have blazed trails and made outstanding contributions to improving the plight of disadvantaged and disenfranchised people. The 1998 special honorees include: The Honorable Tom Bradley, the former Mayor of Los Angeles; Monsignor

Gregory A. Cox, the Executive Director of Catholic Charities; and Dr. Clyde W. Oden, President and Chief Executive Officer of UHP HealthCare.

The dinner chairmen are Kenneth T. Derr, Chairman of the Chevron Corporation, and Rev. Leon Sullivan, Chairman of OIC of America. The keynote speaker is Eli Segal, President of the Welfare to Work Partnership. The Partnership, which is comprised of 3,000 private sector employers, was formed to answer President Clinton's challenge to the business community to open employment opportunities for welfare recipients.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the LAOIC for its tenacity, determination and spirit. LAOIC deserves our encouragement, applause and support.

IN HONOR OF ROBERT "WORT" REED

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my good friend and neighbor, Robert "Wort" Reed, who passed away recently. Wort lived in my hometown of Gillett and was the perfect example of a good neighbor and friend. He was a hard worker who never failed to pitch in when a friend or neighbor needed him. Wort was always ready to do his part for the community, school, church, or profession. He had a great sense of fairness and honesty. He was one of those rare people who took care of his own business and only wanted enough. He came from a family that lived the values we talk about every day on the House floor. If the measure of a great man is the children he leaves behind, then he is by all measures great.

Let us today pay tribute to a friend, role model, community leader, and Christian whose standard we should all follow. Wort will be remembered and missed by all of his friends and family in Gillett, AR.

CRIME CONTROL ACT SHOULD INCLUDE ALL YOUTH UNDER 21

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincerest thoughts and prayers to everyone who has had to endure the extraordinary dreadful experience of having a loved one abruptly disappear. In particular, my deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Suzanne Lyall. Suzanne, a resident of Ballston Spa, NY, vanished from her life as a student at SUNY Albany in March of this year. Campus security, local police, and the FBI have all investigated the matter with no success. In this case, the authorities did not hesitate to report the disappearance to the National Crime Information Center and the State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse. Notification

to these agencies automatically alerts and links crucial information to the appropriate authorities nationwide. However, this immediate and vital action is not required by law, and I believe it should be!

Currently, the Crime Control Act of 1990 requires that all state and local law enforcement agencies impose a 24 hour waiting period before accepting reports of missing persons over the age of 17. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation that amends the Crime Control Act to include persons up to 21 years of age. I feel that this legislation is necessary to ensure that all cases dealing with missing youths under the age of 21 are handled without hesitation. When investigating any disappearance, time is of the essence. My bill would allow law enforcement agencies to contact the National Crime Information Center and the State Missing and Exploited Children Clearinghouse immediately. This slight change in the law might make the difference in a missing persons case, and help to reunite a family. I urge all of my colleagues to consider this important bill.

BIPARTISAN EFFORT ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE STARR REPORT EMERGES

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I met with Speaker GINGRICH, Minority Leader GEPHARDT, Majority Leader ARMEY, and Judiciary Committee Chairman HYDE to talk about issues relating to the report from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

In the past, I have had concerns about the partisan approach taken by the majority on procedural issues relating to how the Judiciary Committee will handle the Starr report. In particular, I was concerned about the prominent role played by the House Rules Committee in drafting the procedures we will use, and about why Democrats were excluded from the process of drafting those procedures.

While I have learned over the years to be cautious about promises made to me, I must say that I was pleasantly surprised by our meeting. Of course, we did not have time during our meeting to get into the specifics of the procedures that will govern our work, but we were able to agree that our approach must be bipartisan, and that these issues are so serious to the Congress, the President, and the citizens of our country that each of us has a duty to rise above party politics and do what is best for our nation.

During our meeting today, we agreed on a number of things. First, the majority agreed to increase the minority's staffing allowance from 4 investigative slots to 6 investigative slots. This increase means that there will be 12 majority investigators and 6 minority investigators. This increase in the minority staff will allow both parties to consider and analyze the report and its accompanying materials more carefully than would have been possible under the prior allocation.

Second, the report, at some point, is likely to be made available to the public. We still

hope that the President's counsel will have an opportunity to review the report before it is made public and submit any additional views that he feels are necessary to a complete understanding of the events. Such a submission is extremely important because, as you already know, the grand jury witnesses were not subject to cross examination and did not have their attorneys present while testifying. As such, the witnesses' testimony was not subject to the rigorous, adversarial process that our legal system mandates for the purpose of eliciting the truth. If the President's counsel were given the chance to review the report and submit his views on the evidence before the report is made public, Congress would have the advantage of hearing both sides of the story and determining the facts based upon all of the evidence.

Third, during our meeting this morning, we decided that the grand jury materials accompanying the report, including all testimony and any physical evidence would, for the foreseeable future, remain sealed and available only to Congress. We agreed that this would be the best course of action because the materials may include information revealing the private lives of private citizens, people who are involved in this matter only as innocent bystanders.

A number of areas of disagreement remain, but I am pleased that we were able to talk this morning in a bipartisan manner. We look forward to working with our colleagues across the aisle, and I fully intend to hold them to the promises that they have made to us.

ELIMINATE THE FAA'S LIAISON AND FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING PROGRAM

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the frequent flyer program that is currently being run down at the Federal Aviation Administration. But unlike other frequent flyer programs, you don't have to earn your free flight in this program—all you have to do is sign up. What I am referring to, of course, is the FAA's Liaison and Familiarization Training Program (FAM), a program that was originally created to give air traffic controllers an awareness of, and familiarization with, cockpit and pilot procedures by allowing them to ride in the cockpit's jump seat. This program, while laudable in purpose, has unfortunately turned into a "popular perk" for FAA employees who are more interested in getting free air travel for vacations and personal reasons than they are in observing and learning about cockpit and safety procedures. The abuses of this program were so bad, in fact, that the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation recently recommended a number of reforms be made to the program. It is, in the words of one airline's slogan, becoming obvious that FAA employees love to fly, and it shows. Today, I am introducing a bill that will implement the Inspector General's reforms in order to curb the rampant and wide-

spread abuse of the FAM program by FAA employees.

In an August 3, 1998 memo to Jane Garvey, the FAA Administrator, Kenneth Mead, the DOT's Inspector General (IG), reiterated his concern over the "serious continuing, and widespread lapse of ethics in the Liaison and Familiarization program (FAM)." This program, which dates back to the 1940's, was originally created in order to allow FAA employees, particularly air traffic controllers, to ride in an airline cockpit's jump seat in order to become familiar with the environment in which pilots operate. However, over the past two decades this program has been increasingly misused by employees. And, I don't think I need to remind you, Mr. Speaker, that accepting gifts of free travel is in direct contravention to a host of laws, regulations, and executive orders.

Among the rampant abuses that were detailed in a February 20, 1996 IG report were the following: an employee that took 12 weekend trips in a 15-month period to visit his family in Tampa, Florida; an employee that took 10 weekend trips in a 9-month period to visit the city where he ultimately retired; an employee that took 7 trips to Fort Myers or Tampa, Florida, and 2 trips to Las Vegas, Nevada, utilizing weekends and regular days off to travel; travel by an employee that utilized annual leave or regular days off to take 7 trips to Los Angeles, California, and 1 trip to Munich, Germany; and employee that took 17 trips to his military reserve duty stations; and 7 couples that took 21 flights for extended weekends and vacations. And, according to an article published in the Washington Post, 247,840 authorizations for travel under the auspices of this program were issued by the FAA between January 1993 and April 1994. Unfortunately, the FAA failed to act on this 1996 report, and that is why I am introducing legislation that will reform this program so that these abuses and ethical violations will not occur in the future.

The Inspector General's August 3 memo makes several recommendations for reform. I believe these recommendations are valid, reasonable, and absolutely necessary in order to curb the ethical lapses that have occurred, while still preserving the program's valuable training and safety benefits. My bill simply adopts the recommendations of the Inspector General and requires the FAA to transmit a report to Congress on the implementation of these reforms. Specifically, the IG's report makes the following recommendations precluding FAM travel that "(1) involve travel on leave days or days off; (2) involve scheduled leave of days off between the outgoing flight and the return flight when management makes an affirmative documented determination that such is for legitimate purposes and will not create an appearance of impropriety; or (3) involve foreign overseas travel for an employee in a facility that does not work oceanic airspace." In addition, the IG report makes the further recommendation that "appropriate controls must require preapproval of FAM flights by supervisory personnel and only then when the supervisor determines that the specific flight meets official training needs of the FAA."

It is time that we reform this program. The abuses have gone on for too long, so long, in fact, that the program is considered an entitle-

ment by air traffic controllers in their contract negotiations with the FAA. This program has, according to the IG, become "what is widely understood to be a popular 'perk' for many FAA employees"—a perk that I believe needs to end.

TRIBUTE TO BUD WILSON OF CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA FOR THE COMPLETION OF HIS TERM AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDE- PENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow Californian and good friend, Bud Wilson of Chula Vista, who last month completed his one-year term as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America (IIAA), the nation's largest insurance association. Bud's term as president of the IIAA is the crowning accomplishment of his many years of tireless effort and dedication to IIAA, the Insurance Brokers and Agents of the West (IBA West), his 300,000 colleagues across the country, his clients, and his community.

Bud's many years of hard work and leadership as an independent insurance agent have resulted in a distinguished career marked by outstanding service to his colleagues and his profession. On the state level, Bud served IBA West on various committees and as president in 1981. From 1983–1986 he served as the IBA West representative on IIAA's Board of State National Directors. In 1987, Bud received the P.S.W. Ramsden Memorial Award, the highest honor conferred by the California state association.

Later, when elected chairman of IIAA's Government Affairs Committee, Bud's passion for the legislative process resulted in four highly successful years for the organization. In recognition of his exceptional work, Bud was honored with the IIAA's Sydney O. Smith Legislative Award in 1994.

Bud was subsequently elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1994 and was selected as IIAA President last year during the Association's 102nd annual convention held in Hawaii. Throughout his time as one of IIAA's top elected officials, he became known for his effectiveness and devotion to the independent agents around the country and for millions of American insurance consumers.

In addition to serving his colleagues and clients, Bud has also been extensively involved in his community. He is past-president of the Chula Vista Rotary Club, the Chula Vista Jaycees, the Chula Vista Community Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Chula Vista Salvation Army. He has also helped with numerous other Chula Vista community projects.

On an interesting aside my colleagues will appreciate, Bud also has the honor of being the nephew of our former colleague the Honorable Bob Wilson of California.

I congratulate my friend and activist citizen for a job extremely well done. Although he is stepping down as IIAA president, I am confident his service to IIAA, his colleagues, and

his fellow citizens of Chula Vista will continue for years to come.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
TEMPLE BETH-EL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that the Temple Beth-El, in the Town of Bethel, New York, is celebrating its 75th anniversary. From its beginnings in a simple barn, this congregation has grown through many tribulations into a thriving, highly accepted community.

The Beth-El congregation was formed near the turn of the century by a small group of summer residents who vacationed at the shores of North White Lake, which is now called Kauneonga Lake. The congregation was comprised of Jews from New York City whose faith inspired them to organize religious services during their summer vacations. The congregation, then called the Congregation Anchai of North White Lake, met in a hotel owned by Charles Kroner. Because the congregation was Orthodox, and allowed no travel on the Sabbath or holidays, the Kroner family went so far as to donate both meals and lodging to worshippers.

The congregation grew quickly and needed a larger, more permanent space to worship. A small house and barn built the previous century was purchased in 1923. Congregation members took down the house and rebuilt the barn into a more suitable place of worship. Services began the following year and the congregation changed its name to Temple Beth-El. This change symbolized both the beginning of a more permanent congregation, as well as pride in their Town: Bethel, New York. Their tale goes deeper than the story of how a barn became temple. The story of the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El is equally inspiring. They began in the 1940's as a small group of women who organized to provide economic support to their temple. Due to the Orthodox nature of the congregation, women and men were not allowed to sit together during worship. The women endured balcony seats during summer services and were subjected to poor ventilation and buzzing hornets for their faith. In the 1970's the congregation turned conservative, and the women were allowed to join the men on the main floor of the temple. They continued to host pancake breakfasts and barbecues to raise money for both their temple and community. They opened a second hand store to both assist the poor and their congregation.

From these humble beginnings in a barn behind a home, this congregation has grown and thrived. It has hosted more than ten rabbis, endured threats from the Ku Klux Klan, and yet persevered and remained true to the Hebrew meaning of its name, House of God.

I am especially moved by the fond memories members had not only of the services themselves, but the card parties and penny socials hosted by those involved with the temple. It is the tales of Bar Mitzvah's and wed-

dings, births and deaths, which touch me the most. They show the extent to which the temple nourished both the spiritual and social needs of the community.

Praise is best expressed by my constituent Edward Brender in his poem, "The Barn That Became a House of Worship", which reads as follows:

The temple once a farmer's barn; part of America's rural farm

Furnished with a century-old church's pews, yet filled with devout and dedicated Jews.

At Temple Beth-El, we like to stay with American uplifted heart's we pray.

For 75 years, the temple filled our spiritual needs, while rabbis planted righteous seeds.

The halls resounded with Chief Justice Lawrence H. Cook's praise, reminding us of Hebrew sacrifices during America's revolutionary phase.

During the time of our country's greatest need, recounting tables of Jewish patriots' deeds.

High on a majestic verdant hill stands stately Temple Beth-El; For 75 years a beacon of freedom's faith, spreading boundless love and tales to tell.

I believe that Congregation Temple Beth-El serves as an example to all Americans in our nation hoping for the simple joys of faith and family.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in applauding this congregation for its dedication to both its faith and its community as a whole and extending our best wishes on the occasion of their 75th anniversary and may Temple Beth-El, enjoy many more years of growth and community service.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE 21ST
CENTURY

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today President Clinton visited my home state of Florida to promote the Administration's education initiatives as education policy moves into the 21st Century. While we have made significant progress in recent years, there is a lot of work yet to be done. I rise today to wholeheartedly support the strengthening of public education through these initiatives. In order to meet the high education standards that we are setting for our children today, we need to provide public schools with the tools for preparing our children for the challenges of the next millennium.

Class sizes must be reduced, new teachers must be hired, and new schools must be built. Schools must also be made safer and, therefore, more conducive to learning. I believe that the expansion of charter school programs is a positive trend which will benefit children throughout the United States. Lastly, federal tax credits will be a crucial to support the renovation and modernization of our schools, many of which have become plagued by structural and age-related problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Administration's program for public

education. In so doing, Congress will fulfill its commitment to America's future.

TRIBUTE TO CADMAN TOWERS AT
101 CLARK STREET IN BROOKLYN
HEIGHTS BROOKLYN ON THEIR
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRA-
TION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the residents of Cadman Towers at 101 Clark Street in Brooklyn Heights, Brooklyn on their 25th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Towers.

For twenty-five years, families have grown and prospered in this supportive and unique community in Brooklyn Heights. Cadman Towers is the eastern border of Brooklyn's historic Brooklyn Heights neighborhood and its residents have added diversity and vitality to this already thriving area.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Cadman Towers and its three hundred residents on this milestone and wish you many happy anniversaries to come!

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT TRIES TO
SHUT DOWN PEOPLE'S COMMISSION
FOR EXPOSING GENOCIDE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn recently that the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, and many political leaders there are trying to outlaw the Punjab People's Commission, which is exposing the genocide against the Sikhs by the police and security forces.

The Punjab government tried to prevent the commission's first meeting by canceling the meeting space that the commission had reserved. However, one of the local Gurdwaras in Chandigarh offered its meeting space and the meeting was held anyway.

During that meeting the People's Commission issued citations in more than 90 cases against police officers who have committed atrocities against the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan. It took up more than 3,000 other cases. This shows the pattern of repression, terror, and genocide against the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. That is why the Badal government and the political leaders there want the commission closed down.

We cannot sit idly by while this vital commission is destroyed. It is the only group within Punjab, Khalistan that is exposing the genocide. The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent Open Letter on this issue. I urge my colleagues, especially those who are always lecturing us about how wonderful Indian democracy is, to read it carefully.

In light of the facts presented in this letter, I call on my colleagues to maintain sanctions

against India and to support an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan so that the Sikhs of that troubled state can vote on whether they should chart their own course separately from Indian tyranny.

I would like to insert that Open Letter into the RECORD.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION

(From Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSION—ATTACKS ON COMMISSION BY BJP, CONGRESS, AND CPI SHOW WHO IS BEHIND SIKH GENOCIDE AND DEEPEN THE SIKH NATION'S WOUNDS

To the Khalsa Panth:

The BJP, Congress, and CPI have finally exposed themselves. They have revealed their own involvement in the genocide against the Sikh Nation. They don't want the truth to come out because it will show their immoral deeds. That is why they want to shut down the Peoples' Commission. Even the Badal government seems to agree. It made every effort to prevent the commission's first meeting from occurring. It is no wonder. The commission issued 90 citations against police officers and received 3,000 more cases. Evidently it is making the political leaders of all stripes nervous. They are now shivering with fear that their part in supporting the genocide against the Sikh Nation will be exposed.

Do not let these corrupt leaders succeed in their effort to shut down the Peoples' Commission. The work that it is doing is too important to the Sikh Nation and all of humanity. The Armenians will not let the genocide against them 80 years ago be forgotten; the Jews will not let the world forget the Holocaust 50 years after it happened. How can the genocide against the Sikh Nation, which occurred during the last 15 years, be forgotten, even by so many Sikh leaders? On March 20, the BJP promised a "transparent" government. That is not what they have delivered. As Ram Narayan Kumar of the Coordination Committee on Disappearance in Punjab asked, "How can the Government ignore the necessity to determine the facts?" The truth will come out; the government's effort to suppress it is futile.

When Badal was running the Punjab state election, he promised to appoint a commission of inquiry into the genocide. He has broken that promise. Not only has he not appointed the commission, he has boasted that his government has taken no action against the police officials who were responsible for the genocide. He has sat idly by while plainclothes police continue to patrol the Golden Temple and thousands of Sikh youth are still sitting in jail. It is no surprise that such a corrupt leader would oppose the Peoples' Commission.

The human-rights community in Punjab, Khalistan tried to give Badal time. They wrote him a letter asking him to keep his promise. When he did not, the Coordination Committee on Disappearance in Punjab, comprised of all the human-rights groups and the World Sikh Council, appointed the People's Commission.

The effort to shut down the Peoples' Commission show that there is no place for Sikhs in Indian democracy. As U.S. Congressman Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.) has said, "The mere fact that Sikhs can choose their oppressors does not mean that they live in a democracy." Whether the government is run by Congress or by the BJP, Sikhs and other minorities continue to be abducted, tortured, raped, and murdered. How can our Sikh leaders turn a blind eye to the genocide.

We recite every day the words "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," the Khalsa shall rule. Yet our Sikh leaders join Hindustan in its effort to stop the exposure of the genocide. Yet the Sikh Nation can never forget the genocide that Hindustan has inflicted upon us. It is time for the Sikh Nation to reclaim its freedom.

It is only when Khalistan is free will the Sikh Nation be free of India's genocide and tyranny. The effort to suppress the People's Commission shows that it is time to begin a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means.

India is destined to break up; their genocide and tyranny will not keep their corrupt, tyrannical empire together. The Sikh leaders who collaborate with their effort to escape the consequences of their actions will be remembered by the Sikh Nation as traitors to the Panth.

The Sikh Nation is disgusted by the continual betrayals of the Khalsa Panth by Indian *chinchas* Badal, Tohra, and their allies. In 1984 Tohra and Badal told us that anyone who attacked the Golden Temple would have to walk over their dead bodies. Yet we saw Tohra with his hands in the air surrendering to the Indian troops. We know whose side these people are on. Even Tohra is now supporting the People's Commission. I hope he realized that the Guru will not forgive him for his betrayal of the Khalsa Panth.

South Africa's Truth Commission exposed the evils of apartheid to the world. We must support the People's Commission to expose the genocide against the Sikh Nation.

The work of the People's Commission must continue so that those who have collaborated with the genocide can be brought to justice. It must continue so that India's genocide against the Sikhs can come to light. It must continue so that our Sikh brothers and sisters can finally live in freedom. The Sikh leaders and grassroots Sikhs must speak and work in support of the commission and its efforts.

The leadership must speak out forthrightly for a free Khalistan. It must commit itself to achieving this most important goal through peaceful resistance to India's brutal tyranny and by means of an internationally-supervised plebiscite so that our future can be determined democratically. That is the only way that the dignity of the Sikh Nation will be restored.

Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation finally live in peace, freedom, prosperity and dignity. Only when Khalistan is free will the rights of all people be ensured.

In Service to the Panth,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President, Council of Khalistan.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this infor-

mation, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 10, 1998, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 14

1:00 p.m.

Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine criminal background checks for nursing home employees.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

Small Business

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-428A

10:00 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of Bernard D. Rostker, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, James M. Bodner, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and Vice Adm. Dennis C. Blair, USN, for appointment to the grade of Admiral, and to be Commander-in-Chief of United States Pacific Command.

SR-222

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nominations of Robert Clarke Brown, of Ohio, John Paul Hammerschmidt, of Arkansas, and Norman Y. Mineta, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Eugene A. Conti, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Transportation Policy, and Peter J. Basso, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Budget and Programs.

SR-253

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on certain extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties.

SD-419

Judiciary

Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine consolidation issues within the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on S. 2390, to permit ships built in foreign countries to engage in coastwise in the transport of certain products.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 16

9:00 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on S. 1576, to permit the exclusive application of California State regulations regarding reformulated gasoline in certain areas within the State, focusing on the use of methyl tertiary-butyl ether in gasoline.

SD-406

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings with the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control to examine anti-drug interdiction efforts.

SH-216

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine the National Cancer Institute's management of radiation studies.

SD-342

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

To hold joint hearings with the Committee on Foreign Relations' Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism to examine anti-drug interdiction efforts.

SH-216

10:00 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing on the nomination of Montie R. Deer, of Kansas, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of the Interior.

SR-485

2:00 p.m.

Judiciary

Immigration Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and proposed reform issues.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the extent of fatigue of transportation operators in the trucking and rail industries.

SR-253

Select on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on intelligence matters.

SH-219

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Commerce involvement in the transfer of satellite technology to China.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on the nominations of Gregory H. Friedman, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Energy, Charles G. Groat, of Texas, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, and other pending nominations.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

2:00 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on miscellaneous bills, including S. 1175, S. 1641, S. 1960, S. 2086, S. 2133, S. 2239, S. 2240, S. 2241, S. 2246, S. 2247, S. 2248, S. 2285, S. 2297, S. 2309, S. 2401, and H.R. 2411.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nominations of Sylvia De Leon, of Texas, Linwood Holton, of Virginia, and Amy M. Rosen, of New Jersey, each to be a Member of the Reform Board (AMTRAK).

SR-253

10:00 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings
To examine the quality of care in the VA health care system.

SR-418

SEPTEMBER 23

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine public and private forestry issues.

SR-328A

Indian Affairs

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by a hearing on H.R. 1833, to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to provide for further self-governance by Indian tribes.

SD-562

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 24

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To resume hearings to examine the safety of food imports, focusing on legislative, administrative and regulatory remedies.

SD-342

10:00 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings to examine recent Midwest electricity price spikes.

SD-366

2:00 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1372, to provide for the protection of farmland at the Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 25

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To continue hearings to examine the safety of food imports, focusing on legislative, administrative and regulatory remedies.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 30

9:00 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on H.R. 1805, to amend the Auburn Indian Resoration act to establish restrictions related to gaming on and use of land held in trust for the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria of California, and S. 2010, to provide for business development and trade promotion for Native Americans.

SR-485

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building